

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF RODNEY DAVID	*	
VESE AND LISA MARIE PAPE ON	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
BEHALF OF ELITE EVENTS, LLC, t/a	*	
PINOT’S PALETTE, FOR A NEW CLASS	*	FOR
D BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR 7-DAY	*	
ON-SALE LICENSE	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
	*	
	*	Case No.: 16-46
	*	

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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 October 25, 2016, the Hearing Board heard the application of Rodney David Vese and Lisa Marie Pape (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Elite Events, LLC, t/a Pinot’s Palette (“Elite Events, LLC”), for a new Class D Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 1,675 square foot tavern located at 11105 Resort Road, Suite 105, 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 M. Meachum, 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 July 5, 2016, from the attorney for the Applicants enclosing a copy of the application; a copy of the background investigation questionnaires for the Applicants; copies of the Maryland driving records for the Applicants from the Maryland Department of

Motor Vehicle Administration, dated June 17, 2016; a copy of the Articles of Organization for Elite Events, LLC; a copy of the Corporate Charter Approval Sheet for Elite Events, LLC; a copy of the floor plan; a memorandum dated September 19, 2016, 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 investigations of the Applicants by the Alcohol Beverage Inspector, dated October 11, 2016; an e-mail dated October 18, 2016, from the Office of the Fire Marshal; a memorandum dated September 30, 2016, from the Department of Planning and Zoning; a memorandum dated October 19, 2016, from the Bureau of Environmental Health; an e-mail dated September 21, 2016, from the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits; a letter dated September 19, 2016, to the Department of Finance; a letter from the Department of Finance; a letter dated September 19, 2016, to the Comptroller of the Treasury; a letter dated October 4, 2016, from the Comptroller of the Treasury; a fax transmission dated September 19, 2016, from the Liquor Board Administrator to the attorney for the applicants, advising notification of the hearing date, and enclosing the required advertisement; and an e-mail dated October 9, 2016, from the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector stating the premises had been posted.

#### **SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

Rodney David Vese, President and 60% shareholder for Elite Events, LLC, t/a Pinot's Palette, was sworn and testified that he has lived in Howard County for nine years, is a registered voter, and is alcohol awareness certified. Mr. Vese testified that Pinot's Palette was originally open with a liquor license, but closed due to the previous licensees having to move out of State. The original owners turned their liquor license in to the Hearing Board. Mr. Vese

testified that he has been operating the business since July 2016, without a liquor license, and that he has been allowing customers to bring their own alcoholic beverages. Mr. Vese stated that he has had an alcohol awareness bartender on duty even though they are not yet licensed.

Mr. Vese testified that their business concept is a place to come to paint with the assistance of an instructor. These customers register in groups of 15 to 40. They are charged a fee, which includes all painting supplies, and two to three hours with an instructor. Mr. Vese testified that the customers are given breaks throughout their instruction time, and that they will be allowed to purchase alcoholic beverages, and pre-packaged snacks from the bartender. Mr. Vese testified that they will also allow customers to bring their own snacks, or they can have food delivered.

Mr. Vese testified that during the time the classes are going on, they have approximately three to four employees working, along with a bartender. Mr. Vese testified that they have a total of eight employees, five of whom are alcohol awareness certified. Their hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday, 11:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M., and Saturday and Sunday, 11:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Mr. Vese testified that only customers who are in the painting classes will be allowed to purchase alcoholic beverages. Mr. Vese testified that he will be there to monitor the operation of the business.

The following Exhibit was entered into the record:

Exhibit #1 – the alcohol awareness certification for Rodney D. Vese

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 Rodney David Vese and Lisa Marie Pape on behalf of Elite Events, LLC, t/a Pinot's Palette, have applied for a new Class D Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 1,675 square foot tavern located at 11105 Resort Road, Suite 105, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042.

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 Rodney David Vese has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and a 60% shareholder of Elite Events, LLC, t/a Pinot's Palette.

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 Rodney David Vese and Lisa Marie Pape on behalf of Elite Events, LLC, t/a Pinot's Palette, have applied for a new Class D Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 1,675 square foot tavern located at 11105 Resort Road, Suite 105, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042.

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 Rodney David Vese 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 would not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the neighborhood.

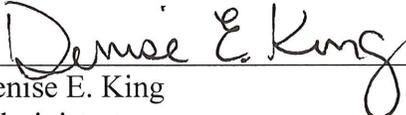
**ORDER**

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Rodney David Vese and Lisa Marie Pape on behalf of Elite Events, LLC, t/a Pinot's Palette, for a new Class D Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 1,675 square foot tavern located at 11105 Resort Road, Suite 105, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicants comply with all State and County Rules and Regulations; and
- (b) Failure to comply with these conditions and obtain the license by December 31, 2016, shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING  
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,  
MARYLAND

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise E. King  
Administrator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Bird, Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Gaetano, Vice-Chairperson

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harry Evans, III, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles C. Feaga, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lewis Taylor, Esquire  
Assistant County Solicitor

  
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Charley C. Sung, Member