

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION \* BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC  
OF NICHOLAS DAVIS JOHNSON AND \* BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD  
ANAS SHALLAL ON BEHALF OF \* FOR  
BUSBOYS OF COLUMBIA, LLC T/A \* HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND  
BUSBOYS AND POETS FOR A NEW \*  
CLASS B BEER, WINE & LIQUOR \* Case No.: 20-26  
7-DAY ON SALE LICENSE \*

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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 September 8, 2020, the Hearing Board heard the application of Nicholas David Johnson and Anas (Andy) Shallal (“Applicants”) on behalf of Busboys of Columbia, LLC t/a Busboys and Poets (“Busboys and Poets”) for a new Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor 7-day on-sale license for a 10,700 square foot restaurant (6,200 sf 1st floor; 4,500 sf 2nd floor) with 3,600 square feet of outdoor spaces (1,600 sf 1<sup>st</sup> level; 2,000 sf upper terrace) located at 6251 Mango Tree Road, Columbia, MD 21044.

The hearing was properly advertised, and the property was posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants were represented by Leanne Schrecengost, Esquire. There were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

All the documents on file were incorporated into the record by reference.

## **SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

Anas (Andy) Shallal, authorized person and owner of Busboys and Poets, was sworn in and testified that there have been no changes to the application or violations of alcohol or gambling laws since the application was filed with the Liquor Board. Mr. Shallal testified that he is the founder of Busboys and Poets and that there are several locations – five in DC, one in Hyattsville and one in Virginia. Mr. Shallal testified that Busboys and Poets has been open since 2005. Mr. Shallal stated that Busboys and Poets is a gathering space designed to bring the community together; they have a curated bookstore, bar, and lounge area with a place to sit and meet other people. Mr. Shallal testified that they often have author and panel discussions, specifically they have held a series on race and racial issues. Mr. Shallal plans to host famous speakers, provide on-going children's programs to include reading and entertainment by professionals, and a robust poetry program inviting poets from all over the country to read their own work. Mr. Shallal testified that there will be a stage area to allow for these types of events. Mr. Shallal stated that he also plans to show films, including documentaries, providing a cultural hub for the community.

Mr. Shallal testified that many people in the Columbia area have requested that he bring a Busboys and Poets to Columbia, Maryland and he is looking forward to a wonderful experience at this location. Mr. Shallal plans to be involved in every aspect of this business and will initially spend a lot of time at this location to make sure things are operating smoothly. After several months, Mr. Shallal may reduce his visits to 1-2 times per week. Mr. Shallal testified that he plans to have at least 120 employees, with approximately 30 employees involved in the sale or service of alcohol. Mr. Shallal stated that he will provide an in-house training program concerning alcohol awareness and all house managers will

complete TIPs training. Mr. Shallal stated they have a policy that they will require anyone who orders alcohol, no matter the age, to provide identification. Mr. Shallal testified that there will also be training in race sensitivity.

Mr. Shallal testified that he expects the sale of alcohol to be under 20% of total sales for food and alcohol. Mr. Shallal stated that this establishment will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner and will be open from 7 or 8 a.m. to about 11 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends. Mr. Shallal is also requesting approval to serve alcohol on the patio and a deck. Mr. Shallal testified that there is an enclosed deck on the second floor, and one patio which will include a perimeter incorporating railings and plants. Mr. Shallal testified that both the patio and deck will be visible from the restaurant.

Mr. Shallal testified that he has read the Liquor Board Rules and agrees to abide by them and understands that he will be held responsible for any violations of liquor laws. Mr. Shallal further testified that his staff will be put through a tough training program on how to deal with alcohol-related issues and problems. Mr. Shallal stated that he has met with staff at Howard County Community College, which has a strong program in hospitality, in order to develop a pipeline to find the best and the brightest employees.

Mr. Shallal testified that the plan is to work closely with the community concerning noise issues and that the outside patios will adhere to noise ordinances. Mr. Shallal stated that the building for this restaurant is a free-standing two-story building with open space for the public with a stage for outdoor performances, such as jazz, poetry, etc. and a children's area with water that can be used as an ice-skating rink in winter.

Nicholas Johnson, proposed resident agent, 10% owner of the LLC and authorized person, was sworn in and testified that there have been no changes to the application or



violations of alcohol or gambling laws since the application was filed with the Liquor Board. Mr. Johnson has been a resident of Howard County since 2015 and has completed alcohol awareness training. Mr. Johnson testified that he plans to meet the management staff prior to the opening of Busboys and Poets to discuss the frequency of his visits and expected interactions. Mr. Johnson stated that he plans to stop in during various times of the day to make sure that the liquor license is posted, the staff are following rules, and will notify management if he sees any possible violation. Mr. Johnson testified that he has been a teacher in Howard County for the past 7 years teaching social studies.

Mr. Johnson testified that he has received, read and understands the Liquor Board's Rules and understands that the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board will look to him should there be any violations.

The following exhibits were offered, and the Board accepted them into the record:

1. Menu
2. Alcoholic Awareness certificate for Nicholas Johnson.

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicants waived their right to request the Liquor Board to hear the case on appeal. 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 of Nicholas David Johnson and Anas (Andy) Shallal, on behalf of Busboys of Columbia, LLC t/a Busboys and Poets, have applied for a new Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 10,700 square foot restaurant with 3,600 square feet of outdoor spaces (1,600 sf 1<sup>st</sup> level; 2,000 sf upper terrace) located at

6251 Mango Tree Road, Columbia, MD 21044.

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 Nicholas David Johnson lives in Howard County and has a 10% interest in the LLC.

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

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Hearing Board concludes that of Nicholas David Johnson and Anas (Andy) Shallal, on behalf of Busboys of Columbia, LLC t/a Busboys and Poets, have applied for a new Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor 7-day on-sale license for a 10,700 square foot restaurant with 3,600 square feet of outdoor spaces (1,600 sf 1<sup>st</sup> level; 2,000 sf upper terrace) located at 6251 Mango Tree Road, Columbia, MD 21044.

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 Nicholas David Johnson meets the State of Maryland requirements 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.

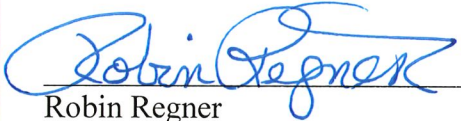
**ORDER**


For the foregoing reasons, it is this 21<sup>ST</sup> day of December, 2020, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED**, that the application of Nicholas David Johnson and Anas (Andy) Shallal, on behalf of Busboys of Columbia, LLC t/a Busboys and Poets for a new Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor 7-day on-sale license for a 10,700 square foot restaurant with 3,600 square feet of outdoor spaces (1,600 sf 1<sup>st</sup> level; 2,000 sf upper terrace) located at 6251 Mango Tree Road, Columbia, MD 21044, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

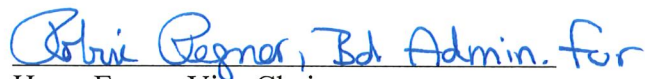
- (a) That the Applicants comply with all State and County laws and regulations; and
- (b) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by February 22, 2021, unless that deadline is extended by the Board upon good cause shown; and
- (c) Failure to comply with these conditions shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

**ATTEST:**


**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING  
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,  
MARYLAND**


  
Robin Regner  
Board Administrator

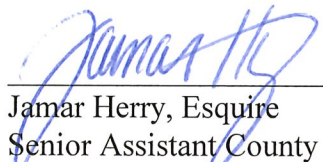
  
Mary Bird, Chairperson

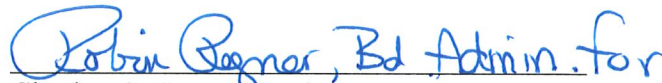
  
Harry Evans, Vice Chairperson

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

  
Steven Chen, Member

  
Claire Kim, Member

  
Jamar Herry, Esquire  
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

  
Charley C. Sung, Member