

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF STEPHEN CHARLES	*	
WECKER AND VINCENT JOSEPH	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
CULOTTA, ON BEHALF OF CURED/	*	
18 TH AND 21 ST , LLC T/A CURED/18 TH	*	FOR HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
& 21 ST , FOR A NEW CLASS B BEER,	*	
WINE, AND LIQUOR 7-DAY ON-SALE	*	Case No.:18-08
LICENSE	*	

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 March 13, 2018, the Hearing Board heard the application of Stephen Charles Wecker and Vincent Joseph Culotta (“Applicants”) on behalf of Cured/18th and 21st, LLC t/a Cured/18th & 21st (“Cured”), for a new Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 8,154-square foot restaurant with a 1,300-square foot outside patio located at 10980 Grantchester Way, One Merriweather, Columbia, Maryland 21044.

The hearing was properly advertised and the property posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants were represented by Thomas Coale, Esq. 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

Stephen Wecker, proposed resident agent and 62% shareholder of this restaurant, was sworn and testified that he has extensive restaurant experience as he is a partner in the Iron Bridge Wine Company, Mutiny Pirate Bar in Anne Arundel County and was part owner of the Elkridge Furnace Inn and has never received a violation in 23 years. Mr. Wecker testified that Cured will have one kitchen serving two concepts – the front of the building being called “Cured”, serving comfort food including oysters and over-stuffed sandwiches and the back of the building being called “18th and 21st”, which will be a prohibition-style supper club with cocktails and a nice wine list. This restaurant will have two concepts serving two diverse group of customers. There are 90 seats in “Cured” and 90 seats in “18th and 21st” and an additional 50 seats in a private dining room Mr. Wecker stated that The Howard Hughes Corporation and Mr. Wecker have been working on this concept for 8 years. Mr. Wecker testified that the outdoor space will be a designated patio area with gardens and a knee wall to restrict people from entering the patio.. The outdoor areas will be monitored by managers and servers to ensure compliance with the liquor laws. Mr. Wecker testified that he will be the principal owner and operator and expects to be on the premises 6-7 days per week. Mr. Wecker stated that he is familiar with the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations and will abide by them and assured the Board that no prohibited practices will occur. Mr. Wecker testified that the restaurant will open at 11 a.m., except on Saturday and Sunday when they will open for brunch at 10 a.m. The restaurant will stay open until midnight on Monday through Thursday, until 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, and until 10 p.m. on Sunday.

Mr. Wecker stated that the managers and bartending staff will be TAM certified and

training in alcohol awareness will be an on-going process for employees. Mr. Wecker testified that he plans to work hard to be a positive part of the community and will made donations to benefit the community. Mr. Wecker explained to the Board that Vincent Culotta, licensee, owns 15% of the restaurant and the remaining shares are owned by the management team and there is a Class A and Class B ownership structure. Mr. Wecker is the managing member and sole authorized person of the corporation and Mr. Culotta is appointed by the corporation to be the licensee.

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.

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 Stephen Charles Wecker and Vincent Joseph Culotta on behalf of Cured/18th and 21st, LLC, t/a Cured/18th & 21st, have applied for a new Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 8,154-square foot restaurant with a 1,300-square foot outside patio located at 10980 Grantchester Way, One Merriweather, Columbia, Maryland 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 Stephen Charles Wecker has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and holds a 65% membership interest in Cured/18th and 21st, 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 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 Stephen Charles Wecker and Vincent Joseph Culotta on behalf of Cured/18th and 21st, LLC, t/a Cured/18th & 21st, have applied for a new Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 8,154-square foot restaurant with a 1,300-square foot outside patio located at 10980 Grantchester Way, One Merriweather, Columbia, Maryland 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 Stephen Charles Wecker meets the requirements of Rules 1.09(S), 1.09(T), 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

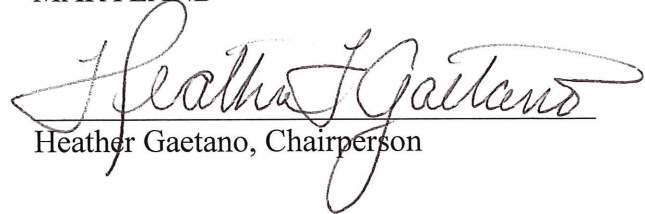
For the foregoing reasons, it is this 27th day of March, 2018, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Stephen Charles Wecker and Vincent Joseph Culotta on behalf of Cured/18th and 21st, LLC, t/a Cured/18th & 21st, for a new Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 8,154-square foot restaurant with a 1,300-square foot outside patio located at 10980 Grantchester Way, One Merriweather, Columbia, Maryland 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 June 27, 2018, 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

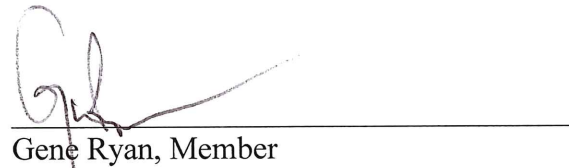

Robin Regner
Board Administrator



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
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

ABSENT
Charley C. Sung, Member