

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF ANDREW	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
GRAZNOW AND MICHAEL PATRICK	*	FOR
FLANNERY ON BEHALF OF	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
PEPPERJACKS ANNAPOLIS	*	
JUNCTION, LLC T/A NOTCH 8	*	
BREWERY FOR A NEW CLASS B	*	Case No.: 21-43
BEER, WINE & LIQUOR 7-DAY	*	
ON SALE 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 September 28, 2021, the Hearing Board heard the application of Andrew Graznow and Michael Patrick Flannery (the Applicants) on behalf of Pepperjacks Annapolis Junction, LLC t/a Notch 8 Brewery (Notch 8 Brewery) for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on sale license for a 5,420 square foot restaurant with a 3,000 square foot exterior located at 10150 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.

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 Kelcie Longaker, Esq. and 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

Andrew Granzow, 51% owner and proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified as follows:

Mr. Graznow testified that he opened the first Pepperjacks 19 years ago when he was 20 years old. Mr. Graznow testified that the new location was an old gas station with three separate shops; the structure has been remodeled and transformed into one space. Mr. Graznow testified that the layout of the sandwich shop, coffee shop, and brewery, will all be connected and there will be garage roll ups for an indoor/outdoor feel.

Mr. Graznow testified that in addition to the Pepperjacks he owns, he also has maintained a café inside Capitol Technology for 7 years.

Mr. Graznow testified that while a license to sell beer, wine and liquor is being requested, the applicants plan to eventually add a State license for a brewery. Mr. Graznow stated that he has never had an alcohol license before but has taken an Alcohol Awareness course and has read the Board's Rules and Regulations in anticipation of getting a liquor license.

Mr. Graznow testified that all staff members will be Alcohol Awareness certified, regardless of what part of the business they are assigned to work in. Mr. Graznow testified that alcohol will only be served at the bar area, and not in other portions of the business. Mr. Graznow testified that he oversees hiring, firing, and any alcohol violation will not be tolerated.

Mr. Graznow testified that when he opened his first business in his 20s, he made some poor choices regarding alcohol and received two DUIs. Mr. Graznow stated that although he is embarrassed about those incidents, he will use the experience to keep it from

happening to someone else and stated that any incident in Howard County related to alcohol will not come from his brewery. Mr. Graznow testified that Notch 8 Brewery will have a policy regarding overserving at the restaurant, and if anyone appears to be intoxicated, they will be provided with a cab.

Mr. Graznow testified that due to the demands of handling every aspect of his first business, he experienced tax issues. Mr. Graznow testified that to ensure nothing is overlooked, he has put a system in place, including hiring accountants to handle his business and a CPA to handle the taxes. Mr. Graznow brought in his father-in-law to help oversee the tax and business matters and understands that he could lose a liquor license if he falls behind on taxes.

Mr. Graznow testified that no manufacturer, brewer, distiller, distributor, or wholesaler, directly or indirectly, has any financial interest in the premises or in the business of the applicants and that no applicant will convey or grant to any such manufacturer, brewer, distiller, or wholesaler any such interest, except as otherwise permitted by law; and that the applicants do not have, at the time of making the application, indebtedness or other financial obligations, directly or indirectly, to any manufacturer, brewer, distiller or wholesaler other than for the purchase of alcohol.

Michael Patrick Flannery, 49% owner and proposed licensee, was sworn in and testified as follows:

Mr. Flannery testified that while he has no experience in the restaurant business, he has extensive experience in business management and marketing, having worked as a sports agent, stock broker as well as in franchising and marketing. Mr. Flannery testified that Notch 8 Brewery is located in the middle of a technology sector and they have forged

relationships with several of the companies, including Northrup Grumman, Blue Halo to manage business and employee events for them.

Mr. Flannery testified that no manufacturer, brewer, distiller, distributor, or wholesaler, directly or indirectly, has any financial interest in the premises or business of the applicants and that no applicant will convey or grant to any such manufacturer, brewer, distiller, or wholesaler any such interest, except as otherwise permitted by law; and that the applicants do not have, at the time of making the application, indebtedness or other financial obligations, directly or indirectly, to any manufacturer, brewer, distiller or wholesaler other than for the purchase of alcohol.

The following Exhibits were accepted into the record:

1. *Alcohol Awareness Certificates for Mr. Graznow*
2. *Menu*

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 Andrew Graznow and Michael Patrick Flannery on behalf of Pepperjacks Annapolis Junction, LLC t/a Notch 8 Brewery have applied for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on sale license for a 5,420 square foot restaurant with a 3,000 square foot exterior located at 10150 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.

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 Andrew Graznow is a Howard County resident and a registered voter.

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 Andrew Graznow and Michael Patrick Flannery on behalf of Pepperjacks Annapolis Junction, LLC t/a Notch 8 Brewery have applied for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on sale license for a 5,420 square foot restaurant with a 3,000 square foot exterior located at 10150 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.

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 Andrew Graznow meets the requirements of Rules 1.10(S), 1.10(T), and 2.06 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.

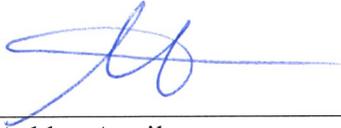
ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 13 day of Dec., 2021, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED** that the application of that Andrew Graznow and Michael Patrick Flannery on behalf of Pepperjacks Annapolis Junction, LLC t/a Notch 8 Brewery for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on sale license for a 5,420 square foot restaurant with a 3,000 square foot exterior located at 10150 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicants provide a floor plan clearly showing the outside area to be licensed; and
- (b) That the Applicants comply with all State and County Rules and Regulations; and
- (c) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by March 11, 2022, unless that deadline is extended by the Board upon good cause shown; and
- (d) 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**



Ashley Aguilar
Board Administrator



Mary Bird, Chairperson

(Absent)

Harry Evans, Vice-Chairperson

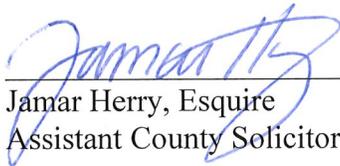
**REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY
OFFICE OF LAW
GARY W. KUC
COUNTY SOLICITOR**



Charley Sung, Member



Steven Chen, Member



Jamar Herry, Esquire
Assistant County Solicitor

NOT AVAILABLE

Claire Kim, Member