

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF TREK ALVIN	*	
BOOKTER, ELISSA ROSE	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
MOCKO-HESS, AND ROBERT	*	
MICHAEL STEVENS ON BEHALF OF	*	FOR
COLUMBIA HH BEVERAGE, LLC, t/a	*	
HOMEWOOD SUITES COLUMBIA, FOR	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
A CLASS D BEER AND LIGHT WINE	*	
7-DAY ON-SALE LICENSE	*	Case No.: 17-21
	*	

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 Trek Alvin Bookter, Elissa Rose Mocko-Hess, and Robert Michael Stevens (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Columbia HH Beverage, LLC, t/a Homewood Suites (“Columbia HH Beverage, LLC”), for a new Class D Beer and Light Wine 7-day on-sale license for a 115,578 square foot hotel located at 8320 Benson Drive, Columbia, Maryland 21045. The hearing was properly advertised pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants were 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 November 17, 2016, from the attorney for the Applicants enclosing the application; the background investigation questionnaires for the Applicants;

driving records for the Applicants from the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration; the Articles of Organization of Columbia HH Beverage, LLC; a letter dated September 21, 2016, from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation confirming acceptance of Columbia HH Beverage, LLC; an email dated March 10, 2017, from the attorney for the Applicants including the Operating Agreement for Columbia HH Beverage, LLC; floor plan for Columbia HH Beverage, 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 investigations of the Applicants 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 Applicants 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; and an e-mail dated April 18, 2017, from the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector stating the premises had been posted.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Trek Alvin Bookter, Member and 10% shareholder of Columbia HH Beverage, LLC, t/a Homewood Suites Columbia, was sworn and testified that he has lived in Howard County for 13 years, is a registered voter, and is alcohol awareness certified. Mr. Bookter testified that

he is the Director of Sales for Columbia HH Beverage, LLC, and is at the hotel Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M., and on Saturday and Sunday every four to six weeks.

Mr. Bookter testified that he has approximately 13 years of experience in the hospitality industry, and that he has been involved with sales, banquets, weddings and other events. Mr. Bookter testified that he has also bartended.

Mr. Bookter testified that they currently offer their patrons an evening social, Monday through Thursday from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M., which includes food and non-alcoholic beverages. Mr. Bookter testified that they would also like to provide alcoholic beverages to their patrons to enhance their evening. Mr. Bookter testified that the social is hosted in the lodge or center area of the hotel. Mr. Bookter testified that there are two servers and a manager there during the socials.

Mr. Bookter testified that they would also like to be able to sell alcoholic beverages in the Suite Shop. Mr. Bookter testified that they are requesting the entire hotel be licensed, so that patrons may take a drink obtained at the social, and anything purchased from the Suite Shop, to their room. Mr. Bookter testified that they do not offer room service. He testified that the expectation is that they will sell more liquor than food.

Mr. Bookter testified that they currently have three managers and three servers who are alcohol awareness certified, and that they intend to have everyone become certified who has contact with the alcoholic beverages.

Mr. Bookter testified that he is familiar with the Rules governing the sale of alcoholic beverages in Howard County, and that he will abide by them.

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 Trek Alvin Bookter, Elissa Rose Mocko-Hess, and Robert Michael Stevens on behalf of Columbia HH Beverage, LLC, t/a Homewood Suites Columbia, have applied for a new Class D Beer and Light Wine, 7-day on-sale license for a 115,578 square foot hotel located at 8320 Benson Drive, Columbia, Maryland 21045.

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 Trek Alvin Bookter has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, a member, and 10% shareholder of Columbia HH Beverage, LLC, t/a Homewood Suites Columbia.

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 Trek Alvin Bookter, Elissa Rose Mocko-Hess, and Robert Michael Stevens on behalf of Columbia HH Beverage, LLC, t/a Homewood Suites Columbia have applied for a new Class D Beer and Light Wine, 7-day on-sale license for a 115,578 square foot hotel located at 8320 Benson Drive, Columbia, Maryland 21045.

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 Trek Alvin Booker meets the requirements of Rules 1.10(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.

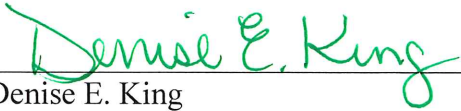
ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 30th day of May, 2017, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Trek Alvin Bookter, Elissa Rose Mocko-Hess, and Robert Michael Stevens on behalf of Columbia HH Beverage, LLC, t/a Homewood Suites Columbia, for a new Class D Beer and Light Wine, 7-day on-sale license for a 115,578 square foot hotel located at 8320 Benson Drive, Columbia, Maryland 21045, 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 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