

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF JOHN AGUILERA,	*	
ARKADY LAPIDUS AND RAVINDRA	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
DIXIT ON BEHALF OF ELLICOTT	*	
DISTILLING COMPANY, LLC, T/A	*	FOR
ELLICOTT DISTILLING COMPANY,	*	
FOR A NEW CLASS D BEER, WINE,	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
AND LIQUOR 7-DAY ON AND OFF	*	
SALE LICENSE	*	Case No.:19-07

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 February 12, 2019, the Hearing Board heard the application of John Aguelera, Arkady Lapidus and Ravindra Dixit (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Ellicott Distilling Company, LLC, t/a Ellicott Distilling Company (“Ellicott Distilling Company”), for a new Class D, Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day on and off Sale License for a 1,450-square foot distillery and tavern with a 204-square foot outdoor deck located at 8090/8092 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

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

John Aguilera, 26% owner and proposed resident agent, was sworn and testified before the

Board.

Mr. Aguilera testified that he has been a resident of Howard County for more than two years. Mr. Aguilera testified that they plan to make rum, vodka, gin, whiskey, and brandy at the distillery, which will be accessory to the tavern and will occupy approximately 30-35% of the space. He testified they will be serving light food such as charcuterie, bread, fruits, and nuts in the tavern as well as beer and wine.

He testified that they must receive this local Class D license before they can get a Class 9 license through the State. Mr. Aguilera stated that they hope to open the distillery between April and May of 2019 and they have already ordered all the equipment they need.

Mr. Aguilera testified that he plans to be onsite every day in the beginning and later at least one of the three owners will be there at almost all times. He further testified that he has taken the TAMS training program and that the manager will be TAMS certified as well. He stated that they plan to hire experienced staff certified in TAMS and food managers for a total of approximately five additional employees in addition to the three owners. He stated that the outdoor space is only accessible through the tavern and will be monitored by staff at all times. He said that alcohol will not be consumed in the distilling area.

Mr. Aguilera testified that the other two principal owners, Arkady Lapidus and Ravindra Dixit, will also be on the liquor license and that the three are all friends who each bring different skills to the running of the business. He stated that he has reviewed and understands the Rule and Regulations and agrees to abide by them. He said he believes the tavern will be an accommodation for the public.

The following exhibit was submitted into the record as Applicants' Exhibit #1:

- Photo of the seating area

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 John Aguilera, Arkady Lapidus, and Ravindra Dixit, on behalf of Ellicott Distilling Company, LLC, t/a Ellicott Distilling Company, have applied for a new Class D, Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day on and off Sale License for a 1,450-square foot distillery and tavern with a 204-square foot outdoor deck located at 8090/8092 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

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 John Aguilera, the resident agent applicant, has been a Howard County resident for more than two years and is 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 John Aguilera, Arkady Lapidus, and Ravindra Dixit, on behalf of Ellicott Distilling Company, LLC t/a Ellicott Distilling Company, have applied for a new Class D, Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day on and off Sale License for a 1,450-square foot distillery and tavern with a 204-square foot outdoor deck located at 8090/8092 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

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

ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 26th day of February 2019, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of John Aguilera, Arkady Lapidus, and Ravindra Dixit, on behalf of Ellicott Distilling Company, LLC t/a Ellicott Distilling Company, for a new Class D, Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day on and off Sale License for a 1,450-square foot distillery and tavern with a 204-square foot outdoor deck located at 8090/8092 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

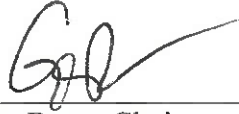
- (a) That the Applicants comply with all State and County laws and regulations;
- (b) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by June 25, 2019, unless that deadline is extended by the Board upon good cause shown; and
- (c) Failure to comply with these conditions shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

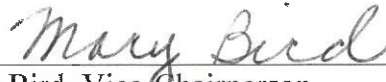
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND



Robin Regner
Board Administrator



Gene Ryan, Chairperson



Mary Bird, Vice-Chairperson

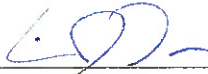
REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY
OFFICE OF LAW
GARY W. KUC
COUNTY SOLICITOR



Charles C. Feaga, Member

ABSENT AT TIME OF SIGNING

Heather Gaetano, Member



Lewis Taylor, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

ABSENT

Charley C. Sung, Member