

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION * BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
 OF COLIN DENTON BELL, PORNTIPA * BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
 PATTANAMEKAR AND PARASAK * FOR
 CHOKESATEAN ON BEHALF OF SP * HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
 COLUMBIA, INC. T/A DOK KHAO *
 THAI EATERY FOR A NEW CLASS B *
 BEER, WINE & LIQUOR 7-DAY * CASE NO.: 21-15
 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 January 26, 2021, the Hearing Board heard the application of Colin Denton Bell, Porn-tipa Pattanamekar (“Pat”) and Parasak Chokesatean (“Sing”), the Applicants on behalf of SP Columbia, Inc. t/a Dok Khao Thai Eatery (“Dok Khao Thai Eatery”) for a new Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 3,400 square foot restaurant with a 270 square foot patio located at 6000 Merriweather Drive, Suite B155, 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 not represented by counsel 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

Colin Bell, proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified that this restaurant will

accommodate the public need and desire, will have no negative effect on businesses in the area/neighborhood and that the applicants are fit and proper to hold a liquor license. Mr. Bell testified that he plans to visit the restaurant frequently at first to make sure everything is in compliance. Mr. Bell testified that he was just re-certified in alcohol awareness training and that as resident agent, he will look for any kind of violation of any rules and regulations and that if he sees anything that needs attention, he will have a manager take action.

Martin Johnson, the project manager who has worked with the applicants for more than a year, was sworn in and testified that proposed resident agent Colin Bell is his neighbor and has been a resident agent for Sea King in Ellicott City for five years. Mr. Johnson testified that Mr. Bell is qualified and has been previously accepted by the Alcohol Beverage Hearing Board as a resident agent.

Mr. Johnson testified that the applicants, who are married, go by the names of Pat and Sing and are the owners of Dok Khao Thai Eatery and that the proposed general manager of the restaurant is Dudchanard Kittitrakul (“Nuck”). Mr. Johnson testified that he has already provided the Board with copies of their alcohol awareness certificates. Mr. Martin testified that the applicants have invested \$1,000,000 into the restaurant and the menu will offer high-end Thai dishes.

Mr. Johnson offered, and the Board accepted into the record, the following exhibits:

1. Arial map showing the location of the proposed restaurant
2. Photographs of the restaurant

Mr. Johnson testified that the restaurant will take approximately four months from the date of the hearing to complete renovations and requests that the deadline to obtain the liquor license be about six months in the future. Mr. Johnson stated that the inside of the restaurant

will be a high-end décor and that the 16' x 16' outdoor patio area will be delineated with decorative permanent fencing. Mr. Johnson testified that patrons cannot seat themselves on the patio but must go through the restaurant to access it and that adequate staffing will be stationed outside to monitor the patio when customers are present.

Mr. Johnson testified that Pat and Sing have a total combination of 30 years of restaurant ownership experience and they own several restaurants in the area and that Colin Bell has five years of experience as an active resident agent. Mr. Johnson testified that his research and experience with other restaurants has led him to believe that customers want mid to high level wine, beer and mixed drinks. Mr. Johnson testified that this restaurant will have more than 50% food sales rather than alcohol sales and that customers can drink and eat full meals at the bar. Mr. Johnson testified that alcohol will be kept under lock and key and there will be no self-service alcohol sales.

Mr. Johnson testified that Pat and Sing did have two liquor violations at their other restaurants and understand the importance of avoiding any liquor violations at Dok Khao Thai Eatery.

Porntipa Pattanamekar, proposed licensee, was sworn in and testified that she lives in Ashburn, Virginia, about an hour from the proposed restaurant, however, will work 10-12 hours a day, 7 days a week, to run the day-to-day operations with the manager for the first several months to make sure everything is running smoothly. The day-to-day operations will include training, ordering inventory, scheduling, and customer service. Ms. Pattanamekar testified that the hours of operation will be Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Ms. Pattanamekar testified that she plans to have about 15 employees and that more

will be added if necessary. Ms. Pattanamekar testified that all employees will be alcohol awareness certified and that she has prepared alcohol and policy procedure manuals for employees. Ms. Pattanamekar testified that she has read the Liquor Board rules and is able to contact Martin Johnson at any time should she have questions or need assistance. Ms. Pattanamekar testified that she plans to donate to the community.

Ms. Pattanamekar testified that she will follow all alcohol procedures, will ask for identification for anyone appearing to be under the age of 40 years old and will refuse service to anyone that appears to be intoxicated. Ms. Pattanamekar testified that she and the manager are alcohol awareness certified, however, she prefers that all employees be alcohol awareness certified in the future. Ms. Pattanamekar testified that there will be eight employees for the front area and seven employees in the kitchen and that this will be an upscale restaurant.

Ms. Pattanamekar testified that a server will be outside on the patio area at all times when customers are present to oversee operations and to make sure no alcohol is removed from the area. Ms. Pattanamekar also stated that all customers will come through the restaurant to be seated on the patio area.

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 Colin Denton Bell, Porntipa Pattanamekar and Parasak Chokesatean, on behalf of SP Columbia, Inc. t/a Dok Khao Thai Eatery, have applied for a new Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 3,400 square foot restaurant with a 270 square

foot patio located at 6000 Merriweather Drive, Suite B155, 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 Colin Bell lives in Howard County and is a 10% shareholder.

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 Colin Denton Bell, Pornnipa Pattanamekar and Parasak Chokesatean, on behalf of SP Columbia, Inc. t/a Dok Khao Thai Eatery, have applied for a new Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 3,400 square foot restaurant with a 270 square foot patio located at 6000 Merriweather Drive, Suite B155, 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 Colin Denton Bell 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 11 day of June, 2021, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED**, that the application Colin Denton Bell, Porn-tipa Pattanamekar and Parasak Chokesatean, on behalf of SP Columbia, Inc. t/a Dok Khao Thai Eatery, have applied for a new Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 3,400 square foot restaurant with a 270 square foot patio located at 6000 Merriweather Drive, Suite B155, 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 August 25, 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:

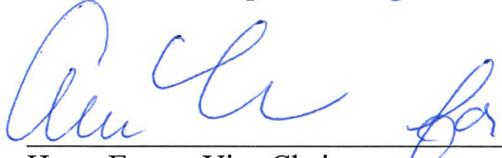
**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND**



Robin Regner
Board Administrator

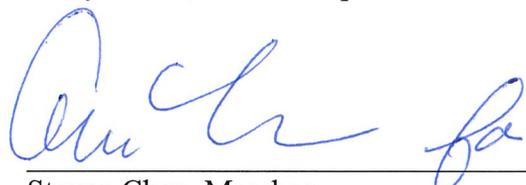


Mary Bird, Chairperson



Harry Evans, Vice Chairperson

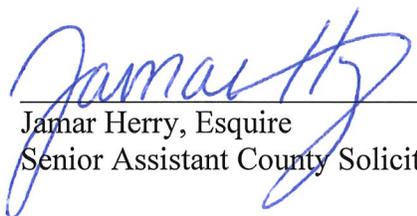
**REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY
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COUNTY SOLICITOR**



Steven Chen, Member



Claire Kim, Member



Jamar Herry, Esquire
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