

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF ASHLEY NICOLE	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
HORNE, CARLOS RAUL FLORES	*	OF
AND MARK DAVID SERWIN	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
ON BEHALF OF SONESTA MD	*	Case No. 21-36
BEVERAGE, LLC t/a SONESTA SELECT	*	
COLUMBIA FOR A TRANSFER OF A	*	
CLASS B, 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 June 22, 2021, using WebEx, a web-based on-line platform, the Hearing Board heard the application of Ashley Nicole Horne, Carlos Raul Flores, and Mark David Sherwin (“Applicants”) on behalf of Sonesta MD Beverage, LLC t/a Sonesta Select Columbia (“Sonesta”) for a transfer of a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license from Jean S. Fehr, Jessica Christine Burgess and Margery Breneman on behalf of Columbia Courtyard, Inc. t/a Courtyard by Marriott for a 91,768 square foot hotel located at 8910 Stanford Boulevard Columbia, MD 21045.

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 represented by liquor consultant, Whitney Anderson Gillings, 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

Ashley Horne, proposed resident agent and hotel operations manager, was sworn in and testified she is a registered voter and resident of Howard County. Ms. Horne testified that she oversees daily operations in the hotel and that alcohol will be sold out of their market. Ms. Horne testified that operations will not change due to the transfer and the hotel will be run similar to the Courtyard Marriot. Ms. Horne testified she has read and understands the Howard County Rules and Regulations of the Board of License Commissioners. Ms. Horne stated that she understands she will be responsible for violations that occur. Ms. Horne also testified that she is alcohol awareness certified and that all staff that will serve alcohol will also undergo alcohol awareness training.

Mr. Mark David Sherwin, Executive Vice President of Operations of the Sonesta International Hotels in the United States, was sworn in and testified that he is a minority member with 1% interest. Mr. Sherwin testified that he has never been convicted of a crime, is familiar with the Board's rules and regulations and understands that he will be responsible for any liquor violations. Mr. Sherwin testified that hotel operations will not change as a result of the transfer. Mr. Sherwin testified he will not physically visit the hotel, but the regional manager will periodically visit.

Mr. Carlos Raul Flores, minority member with 1% interest in Sonesta MD Beverage LLC and President and Chief Executive Officer of Sonesta International, was sworn in and testified he has no criminal convictions nor has he violated any gambling laws. Mr. Flores testified that the operations will not change at the hotel as a result of the transfer. Mr. Flores

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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 the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.

4. 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 7th day of October, 2021, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Ashley Nicole Horne, Carlos Raul Flores, and Mark David Sherwin (“Applicants”) on behalf of Sonesta MD Beverage, LLC t/a Sonesta Select Columbia (“Sonesta”) for a transfer of a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license from Jean S. Fehr, Jessica Christine Burgess and Margery Breneman on behalf of Columbia Courtyard, Inc. t/a Courtyard by Marriott for a 91,768 square foot hotel located at 8910 Stanford Boulevard Columbia, MD 21045, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicant complies with all State and County Rules and Regulations; and
- (b) That the Applicant satisfies any requirements necessary to obtain the

license by January 15, 2022, 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:



Ashley Aguilar
Board Administrator

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



Mary Bird, Chairperson

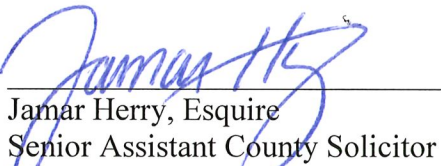


Harry Evans, Vice Chairperson

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



Steven Chen, Member



Jamar Herry, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

NOT PRESENT

Charley C. Sung, Member



Claire Kim, Member