

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF MARC DIXON,	*	
LASHONE MIDDLETON AND	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
RAESHAWN MIDDLETON ON	*	
BEHALF OF R&L CRAB, LLC	*	FOR
T/A R&L CRAB CO. FOR A NEW	*	
CLASS B BEER, WINE AND	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
LIQUOR 7-DAY LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 23-01
	*	

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 24, 2023, the Hearing Board heard the application of Marc Dixon, LaShone Middleton and RaeShawn Middleton (the “Applicants”) on behalf of R&L Crab, LLC t/a R&L Crab Co. (“R&L Crab Co.”) for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day license for a 1,849 square foot restaurant located at 7185 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite B, Columbia, MD 21046.

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 Claude de Vastey Jones, Esquire and there were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

All of the documents on file were incorporated into the record by reference.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

LaShone Middleton, 40% interest holder and proposed licensee, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Ms. Middleton testified that she has been in the restaurant industry for over 15 years, that she has a culinary degree in business management, and that she created the restaurant idea in 2020 when she lost her job due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Middleton stated that the first restaurant location was established in Washington D.C. and that the restaurant's primary concept is to deliver steamed crabs and other seafood items to the customer's residence. Ms. Middleton stated that she will be a part-owner at the Columbia, Maryland location and that she has worked as a chef or server in multiple restaurants. Ms. Middleton stated that she has never held a liquor license before, but that she has training and experience with alcohol sales. Ms. Middleton stated that she has read, and will abide by, the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations and that she plans to be Alcohol Awareness Certified.¹ Ms. Middleton stated that she plans to hire locally and set up mentorship opportunities for kids. Ms. Middleton stated that they will serve canned or bottled beer and canned/sealed cocktails at the restaurant, and that she will keep the parking area clean. Ms. Middleton stated that alcohol will not be allowed to be ordered over the phone, that they will offer delivery, and that alcohol will not be served or delivered without scanning the customer's I.D. Ms. Middleton stated that they will be open year-round and that she will be at the restaurant once a week.

Marc Dixon, 20% interest holder and proposed resident agent was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

¹ As of February 2, 2023, all three of the Applicants for R&L Crab, LLC have obtained their Alcohol Awareness certificates.

Mr. Dixon testified that he is a Howard County resident and is a registered voter. Mr. Dixon stated that they plan to expand the menu, install a new guest bathroom and add tables to the restaurant. Mr. Dixon stated that the restaurant is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, and open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Mr. Dixon stated that there is currently 1 employee and that he has been a cook and a server in the restaurant industry for 35 years. Mr. Dixon stated that he has experience serving and selling alcohol, that he plans to be Alcohol Awareness Certified, and that he will make it a requirement for all staff to be Alcohol Awareness Certified. Mr. Dixon stated that his role will be to take care of daily activities, oversee customers, steam crabs and clean the premises. Mr. Dixon stated that he has never held a liquor license before, and that he plans to have a small, limited menu of alcoholic beverages. Mr. Dixon stated that he has read, and will abide by, the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations. Mr. Dixon stated that he will give back to the community by working with schools and holding fundraising events. Mr. Dixon stated that they recycle and keep the area clean.

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 Marc Dixon, LaShone Middleton and RaeShawn Middleton (the "Applicants") on behalf of R&L Crab, LLC t/a R&L Crab Co. ("R&L Crab Co.") have applied for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day license

for a 1,849 square foot restaurant located at 7185 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite B, Columbia, MD 21046.

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 Marc Dixon is a Howard County resident.

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 Marc Dixon, LaShone Middleton and RaeShawn Middleton (the "Applicants") on behalf of R&L Crab, LLC t/a R&L Crab Co. ("R&L Crab Co.") have applied for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day license for a 1,849 square foot restaurant located at 7185 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite B, Columbia, MD 21046.

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 Marc Dixon 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.

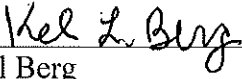
ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 6th day of February, 2023, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED** that the application of Marc Dixon, LaShone Middleton and RaeShawn Middleton (the "Applicants") on behalf of R&L Crab, LLC t/a R&L Crab Co. ("R&L Crab Co.") for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day license for a 1,849 square foot restaurant located at 7185 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite B, Columbia, MD 21046, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

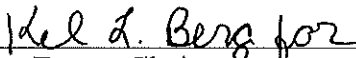
- (a) That the Applicants comply with all State and County Rules and Regulations; and
- (b) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by July 24, 2023, unless that deadline is extended by the Hearing Board upon good cause shown; and
- (c) That all three applicants submit acceptable proof of Alcohol Awareness Certificates; and
- (d) Failure to comply with these conditions shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

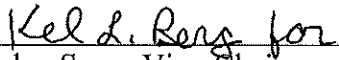
**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND**



Kel Berg
Board Administrator (Acting)

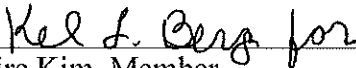


Harry Evans, Chairperson

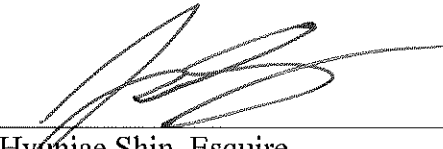


Charley Sung, Vice-Chairperson

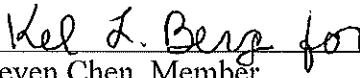
**REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY
OFFICE OF LAW
GARY W. KUC
COUNTY SOLICITOR**



Claire Kim, Member



Hyunjae Shin, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor



Steven Chen, Member