

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF MARGARET	*	
F. BARRY AND JAMES J. KING,	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
ON BEHALF OF BBLC LICENSING,	*	
LLC, T/A BLACKWALL BARN &	*	FOR
LODGE, FOR A NEW CLASS B	*	
BEER, WINE & LIQUOR 7-DAY	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 22-39

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**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 September 13, 2022, the Hearing Board heard the application of Margaret F. Barry and James J. King (the “Applicants”) on behalf of BBLC Licensing, LLC t/a Blackwall Barn & Lodge (“Blackwall Barn & Lodge”) for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day license for a 10,572 square foot restaurant with a 1,077 square foot patio located at 6000 Merriweather Drive, Suite B-140, Columbia, MD 20144.

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 Leanne Schrecengost, 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

James J. King, 10% interest holder and proposed licensee, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. King testified that he is the CEO of Titan Hospitality Group, that he owns and operates several restaurants in the mid-Atlantic region, and that there is currently a Blackwall Barn and Lodge location in Gambrills, Maryland. Mr. King stated that the architectural plans would be completed within the week and that he will be applying for building permits by the end of September. Mr. King stated that the location will be on the ground level in the Merriweather district and that he believed Howard County to be a good area to bring his brand to. Mr. King stated that none of his personal information has changed since submitting his application and that he has had no felony convictions or violations of alcohol or gambling laws.

Mr. King stated that he will be in charge of all operations of the business and that he is currently hiring for a general manager, executive chef and 5 other members of the management team. Mr. King stated that he will be on-site every day for the first few months, and then several times a week after that. Mr. King stated that the patio area will have one entrance which will be staffed from opening to closing, ensuring that no customers would be able to leave with alcoholic beverages. Mr. King stated that he planned to hire 50-60 people full time, that all employees would be TIPS certified (Training for Intervention Procedures), and that everyone under age 50 would be carded. Mr. King stated that the business will be open every day at 11 a.m. and close at 1 a.m. on the weekends and at midnight on the weekdays.

Mr. King stated that he is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations and that he is aware that the Hearing Board will look to him if there were any

violations. Mr. King stated that he has overseen 16 liquor licenses in Maryland and currently is on 2 licenses. Mr. King stated that he had 1 violation in Annapolis 9 years ago and that the bartender who committed the violation was terminated. Mr. King stated that he is the majority owner of Black Barn and Lodge Columbia, LLC and that he has 2 business partners and 65 investors, but that he is the only one with operational control. Mr. King stated that the restaurant concept is rustic farm to table that will also specialize in holding small events. Mr. King stated that they will have live entertainment while abiding by any rules relating to live music, and that the restaurant is designed to handle the overflow from Merriweather concert patrons. Mr. King stated that he is a good corporate citizen by giving back to the community and participating in and supporting various organizations.

Margaret F. Barry, 10% interest holder and proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Ms. Barry testified that none of her personal information has changed since submitting the application and that she has had no felony convictions or violations of alcohol or gambling laws. Ms. Barry stated that she has lived in Howard County for 25 years and that she is a registered voter. Ms. Barry stated that she has been in the restaurant business since college and that she is Alcohol Awareness Certified. Ms. Barry stated that she plans to visit the restaurant once or twice a month, but also as often as needed. Ms. Barry stated that she will notify the management staff when she is on-site and that she will interact with the staff. Ms. Barry stated that she will look to make sure licenses and permits are properly posted and that alcohol purchasing records and employee records are in order. Ms. Barry stated that if she witnesses someone underage being served that she will notify a manager on duty. Ms. Barry stated that she is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations and that she is

aware that the Hearing Board will also look to her if there are any violations. Ms. Barry stated that she has not held a liquor license before, but that she has experience serving alcohol. Ms. Barry stated that she has not had any personal alcohol violations and that she understands her responsibilities.

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 Margaret F. Barry and James J. King (the “Applicants”) on behalf of BBLC Licensing, LLC t/a Blackwall Barn & Lodge (“Blackwall Barn & Lodge”) have applied for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day license for a 10,572 square foot restaurant with a 1,077 square foot patio located at 6000 Merriweather Drive, Suite B-140, Columbia, MD 20144.

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 Margaret F. Barry 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 Margaret F. Barry and James J. King (the

“Applicants”) on behalf of BBLC Licensing, LLC t/a Blackwall Barn & Lodge (“Blackwall Barn & Lodge”) have applied for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day license for a 10,572 square foot restaurant with a 1,077 square foot patio located at 6000 Merriweather Drive, Suite B-140, Columbia, MD 20144.

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 Margaret F. Barry 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED** that the application of Margaret F. Barry and James J. King (the “Applicants”) on behalf of BBLC Licensing, LLC t/a Blackwall Barn & Lodge (“Blackwall Barn & Lodge”) for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day license for a 10,572 square foot restaurant with a 1,077 square foot patio located at 6000 Merriweather Drive, Suite B-140, Columbia, MD 20144, 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 March 13, 2023, unless that deadline is extended by the Hearing 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**

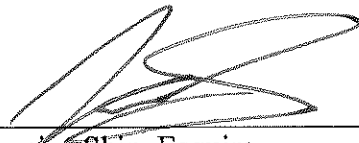
*Kel L. Berg*  
Kel Berg  
Acting Board Administrator

ABSENT  
Mary Bird, Chairperson

*Kel L. Berg for*  
Harry Evans, Vice-Chairperson

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

*Kel L. Berg for*  
Charley Sung, Member

  
Hyunjae Shin, Esquire  
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

*Kel L. Berg for*  
Steven Chen, Member

ABSENT  
Claire Kim, Member