

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF SPENCER	*	
PHILLIP LOVE, MICHAEL O'BRIEN	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
TONSMEIRE AND SCOTT JANISH	*	
ON BEHALF OF SAPWOOD CELLARS,	*	FOR
LLC T/A SAPWOOD CELLARS FOR	*	
AN EXTENSION OF PREMISES FOR	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
A CLASS D BEER ON/OFF SALE	*	
7 DAY LICENSE	*	Case No.: 23-29
	*	

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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 July 11, 2023, the Hearing Board heard the application of Spencer Phillip Love, Michael O'Brien Tonsmeire and Scott Janish (the "Applicants"), on behalf of Sapwood Cellars, LLC, t/a Sapwood Cellars ("Sapwood Cellars"), for an extension of premises for a Class D Beer, On/Off-sale, 7-Day License for an 11,916 sq. ft. brewery and taproom with a 990 sq. ft. patio located at 8980 Route 108, Suites M,N,O, Columbia, MD 21045.

The hearing was properly advertised, and the property 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

Michael O'Brien Tonsmeire, 43.5% interest holder and licensee, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Tonsmeire testified that he appeared before the Hearing Board 5 years ago for the initial approval of the liquor license, and that the business is doing well and they are able to expand. Mr. Tonsmeire stated that all full-time employees are still working at the business and that the Hearing Board approved them for outdoor seating. Mr. Tonsmeire stated that he has provided great service to the local community, and testified as to the location of the business. Mr. Tonsmeire stated that he will have a 5 foot tall fence to enclose the patio space as well as curb stops for safety. Mr. Tonsmeire stated that tables will be monitored, that they cater to a more mature clientele, and that they offer non-alcoholic drinks. Mr. Tonsmeire stated that they currently offer food trucks, and that the business will not disturb the neighborhood, as they are located in an office park and not near any dwellings. Mr. Tonsmeire stated that he does not typically offer live entertainment, that the business closes at 10 p.m., that he avoids sponsoring anything child-related, and that he partners with charities. Mr. Tonsmeire stated that he started out by brewing beer at home, that he uses local ingredients, and that he now has many expanded offerings. Mr. Tonsmeire stated that he offers half pours, mixed 4-packs, and growlers. Mr. Tonsmeire stated that he offers trivia on Tuesdays and that his business was recognized in 2022 as having a top 20 beer. Mr. Tonsmeire stated that he has a group of regulars that have become friends, and that the local craft breweries support each other.

Spencer Phillip Love, 1% interest holder and resident agent, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Love testified that his driver's license address was not updated at the MVA and that

he will be updating it soon.

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 Spencer Phillip Love, Michael O'Brien Tonsmeire and Scott Janish (the "Applicants"), on behalf of Sapwood Cellars, LLC, t/a Sapwood Cellars ("Sapwood Cellars"), have applied for an extension of premises for a Class D Beer, On/Off-sale, 7-Day License for an 11,916 sq. ft. brewery and taproom with a 990 sq. ft. patio located at 8980 Route 108, Suites M,N,O, Columbia, MD 21045.

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 Spencer Phillip Love, the resident agent applicant, 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 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 Spencer Phillip Love, Michael O'Brien Tonsmeire and Scott Janish (the "Applicants"), on behalf of Sapwood Cellars, LLC, t/a Sapwood

Cellars (“Sapwood Cellars”), have applied for an extension of premises for a Class D Beer, On/Off-sale, 7-Day License for an 11,916 sq. ft. brewery and taproom with a 990 sq. ft. patio located at 8980 Route 108, Suites M,N,O, Columbia, MD 21045.

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 Spencer Phillip Love, the resident agent applicant, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2023, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Spencer Phillip Love, Michael O’Brien Tonsmeire and Scott Janish (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Sapwood Cellars, LLC, t/a Sapwood Cellars (“Sapwood Cellars”), for an extension of premises for a Class D Beer, On/Off-sale, 7-Day License for an 11,916 sq. ft. brewery and taproom with a 990 sq. ft. patio located at 8980 Route 108, Suites M,N,O, Columbia, MD 21045, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

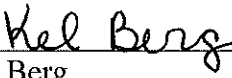
- (a) That the Applicants comply with all State and County laws and regulations; and
- (b) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by January 11, 2024 unless that deadline is extended by the Hearing Board upon good

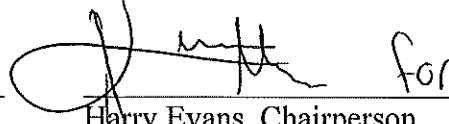
cause shown; and

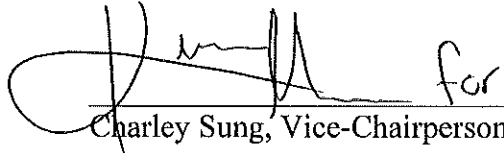
- (c) Failure to comply with these conditions shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

**ATTEST:**


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

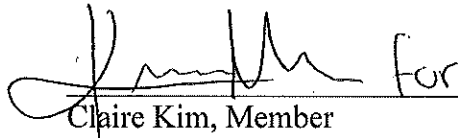
  
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Kel Berg  
Board Administrator

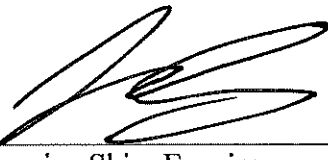
  
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for  
Harry Evans, Chairperson

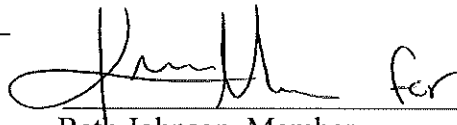
  
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for  
Charley Sung, Vice-Chairperson

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
for  
Steve Chen, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
for  
Claire Kim, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hyunjae Shin, Esquire  
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
for  
Beth Johnson, Member