

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF MARK RODNEY	*	
WIDNER AND SONIA KALRA	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
ON BEHALF OF PURPLE POTATO,	*	
LLC T/A GREAT SAGE FOR A	*	FOR
RESIDENT AGENT CHANGE FOR	*	
A CLASS B BEER, WINE AND	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
LIQUOR 7-DAY LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 23-45
	*	

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 December 18, 2023, the Hearing Board heard the application of Mark Rodney Widner and Sonia Kalra (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Purple Potato, LLC t/a Great Sage (“Great Sage”), for a resident agent change, replacing Alexander Paul Cabot, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day license for a 2,500 sq. ft. restaurant with a 375 sq. ft. patio located at 5809 Clarksville Square Drive, Clarksville, MD 21029.

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 Sang Oh, 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

Mark Rodney Widner, 50% interest holder and proposed resident agent, was sworn in

and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Widner testified that he is purchasing Purple Potato, LLC, that his wife, Sonia Kalra, is a co-applicant, and that the previous resident agent will remain at the restaurant. Mr. Widner stated that the restaurant has been open since 2004, that it has a loyal following with all age groups, and that there have been no violations. Mr. Widner stated that he will not be making any changes to the restaurant concept, that he will keep the current staff, and that he is a resident of Howard County. Mr. Widner stated that he has never been convicted of a felony, that he has no financial interest in any other liquor licenses, and that he has never previously held a liquor license. Mr. Widner stated that he and his wife have no prior restaurant experience, that they are both vegan, and that there is a lack of vegan restaurants in the area. Mr. Widner stated that he has a background in operations management, that Ms. Kalra has a background in product management, and that he and his wife are going to maintain their current jobs.

Mr. Widner stated that he understands that he will need to be present at the restaurant to ensure compliance with all laws, and that he has been working at the restaurant almost every day. Mr. Widner stated that he and his wife are Techniques of Alcohol Management (TAM) certified, that all staff is current on their TAMs training, and that the staff has experience serving alcohol. Mr. Widner stated that he is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations and that he will uphold the laws. Mr. Widner testified as to the menu offerings, the specials, and stated that the restaurant offers live music. Mr. Widner stated that the hours of operation are Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. or 9 p.m. Mr. Widner stated that he lives 10 minutes from the restaurant, that he is familiar with the schools in the area, and he testified as to the restaurant location. Mr. Widner stated that the area consists of all commercial businesses, that there are no residential homes nearby, and that he contributes to the

community by fundraising with local organizations.

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 Mark Rodney Widner and Sonia Kalra (the "Applicants"), on behalf of Purple Potato, LLC t/a Great Sage ("Great Sage"), have applied for a resident agent change, replacing Alexander Paul Cabot, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day license for a 2,500 sq. ft. restaurant with a 375 sq. ft. patio located at 5809 Clarksville Square Drive, Clarksville, MD 21029.

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 Mark Rodney Widner, 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 Mark Rodney Widner and Sonia Kalra (the "Applicants"), on behalf of Purple Potato, LLC t/a Great Sage ("Great Sage"), have applied for

a resident agent change, replacing Alexander Paul Cabot, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day license for a 2,500 sq. ft. restaurant with a 375 sq. ft. patio located at 5809 Clarksville Square Drive, Clarksville, MD 21029.

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 Mark Rodney Widner, 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 31st day of January, 2024, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Mark Rodney Widner and Sonia Kalra (the "Applicants"), on behalf of Purple Potato, LLC t/a Great Sage ("Great Sage"), for a resident agent change, replacing Alexander Paul Cabot, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day license for a 2,500 sq. ft. restaurant with a 375 sq. ft. patio located at 5809 Clarksville Square Drive, Clarksville, MD 21029, 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 June

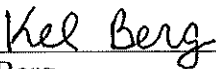
18, 2024 unless that deadline is extended by the Hearing Board upon good cause

shown; and

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

ATTEST:

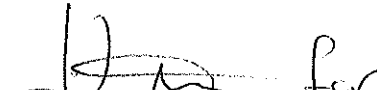
**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND**



Kel L. Berg
Board Administrator




Harry Evans, Chairperson

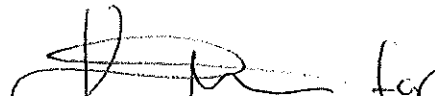


Charley Sung, Vice-Chairperson


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




Steve Chen, Member



Claire Kim, Member



Hyunjae Shin, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor



Beth Johnson, Member