

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF JACOB	*	
SPAIN ON BEHALF OF	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
JAYBIRD BAR, LLC T/A	*	
SONOMA’S BAR & GRILL	*	FOR
FOR A TRANSFER OF A CLASS	*	
B BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
7-DAY ON SALE LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 25-14
	*	

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 24, 2025, the Hearing Board heard the application of Jacob Spain (the “Applicant”), on behalf of Jaybird Bar, LLC t/a Sonoma’s Bar & Grill (“Sonoma’s Bar & Grill”), for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 3,189 square foot restaurant with a 540 square foot patio located at 7284 Cradlerock Way, Suite E, 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 Applicant was 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

Jacob Spain, 100% interest holder and proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified

before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Spain testified that he has been a resident and homeowner in Ellicott City since 2009 and that he is a registered voter. Mr. Spain stated that he grew up in Columbia, that he has owned and operated the Bagel Bin in Ellicott City for 6 years, and that he is a good corporate citizen by sponsoring youth sports, schools, and churches. Mr. Spain stated that he tripled sales at the Bagel Bin from 2018 to 2024, and that he plans to utilize lessons from the Bagel Bin to create success for Sonoma's Bar & Grill. Mr. Spain stated that all employees will be Alcohol Awareness Certified and that he understands his role as the resident agent. Mr. Spain stated that he is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations and that he will maintain the current staff. Mr. Spain stated that he does not have experience selling alcohol and that he is bringing in his manager from the Bagel Bin to manage the kitchen operations. Mr. Spain stated that Sonoma's Bar & Grill has a head bartender, and that the staff has worked there for five to ten years. Mr. Spain stated that he plans to work at the restaurant full time and that they are developing strict new practices for carding and identifying intoxicated customers. Mr. Spain stated that there will be new hours of operation, which will be Sunday to Thursday from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. Mr. Spain stated that he is still an owner of the Bagel Bin and that he performs consulting duties, but that he no longer works there.

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicant waived his 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 Jacob Spain (the “Applicant”), on behalf of Jaybird Bar, LLC t/a Sonoma’s Bar & Grill (“Sonoma’s Bar & Grill”), has applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 3,189 square foot restaurant with a 540 square foot patio located at 7284 Cradlerock Way, Suite E, Columbia, MD 21045.

2. The Hearing Board finds that the Applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board finds that Jacob Spain, 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 Jacob Spain (the “Applicant”), on behalf of Jaybird Bar, LLC t/a Sonoma’s Bar & Grill (“Sonoma’s Bar & Grill”), has applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 3,189 square foot restaurant with a 540 square foot patio located at 7284 Cradlerock Way, Suite E, Columbia, MD 21045.

2. The Hearing Board concludes that the Applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board concludes that Jacob Spain, 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

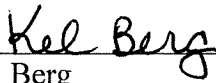
For the foregoing reasons, it is this 18th day of August, 2025, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Jacob Spain (the "Applicant"), on behalf of Jaybird Bar, LLC t/a Sonoma's Bar & Grill ("Sonoma's Bar & Grill"), for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 3,189 square foot restaurant with a 540 square foot patio located at 7284 Cradlerock Way, Suite E, Columbia, MD 21045, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicant comply with all State and County laws and regulations;
- (b) That the Applicant satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by December 24, 2025 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



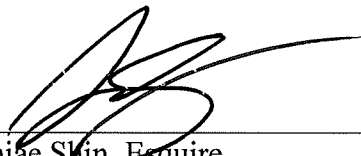
Kel Berg
Board Administrator

ABSENT
Steven Chen, Chairperson

/S/
Steve Hunt, Vice-Chairperson

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

/S/
Ed Coleman, Member



Hyunjae Shin, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

/S/
Beth Johnson, Member

ABSENT
Claire Kim, Member