

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF BRADLEY	*	
NOTARO ON BEHALF OF SOCIAL	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
PETS COLUMBIA, LLC T/A BARK	*	
SOCIAL FOR A NEW CLASS D	*	FOR
BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR 7-DAY	*	
ON SALE LICENSE	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
	*	
	*	Case No.: 25-27
	*	

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 August 26, 2025, the Hearing Board heard the application of Bradley Notaro (the “Applicant”) on behalf of Social Pets Columbia, LLC t/a Bark Social ("Bark Social"), for a New Class D, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on sale license for a 4,500 sq. ft. tavern with a 2,500 sq. ft. patio and a 15,500 sq. ft. dog park located at 5801 Merriweather Drive, Columbia, MD 21044.

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

Bradley Notaro, 0% interest holder and proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Notaro testified that he is the owner, the acting CEO, and a resident of Maryland. Mr. Notaro stated that extensive health policies are in place for dogs at the establishment, that all staff will be trained in alcohol service, and that a Bark Social location in Baltimore with a liquor license has been open for 3 weeks. Mr. Notaro stated that he is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, that he is Alcohol ServSafe Certified, and that he understands his role as the resident agent. Mr. Notaro stated that Bark Social in Howard County previously had a liquor license, and that the staff from the previous ownership will be retained. Mr. Notaro stated that he will provide a safe environment, and that he has no alcohol or criminal violations. Mr. Notaro stated that there will be clear security and safety policies in place, and that the staff will be Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPs) Certified. Mr. Notaro stated that offering alcohol will add value to the community, but that it is not the main focus of the business.

Mr. Notaro testified as to the square footage of the patio and where alcohol will be obtained. Mr. Notaro stated that a general manager, a bar manager, 2 bartenders and himself will be on-site during all shifts, and that he expects to work 50 hours a week. Mr. Notaro stated that he has staff in place at the Baltimore location and that the Howard County location will be his main focus. Mr. Notaro stated that the hours of operation will be every day from 9 a.m. until 11 p.m., and that they serve healthy pizza and wraps. Mr. Notaro stated that there is seating for about 100 people and that there is fencing around the patio. Mr. Notaro testified as to the location of the business and stated that the business previously operated for 3 months before being closed. Mr. Notaro stated that the ratio of sales will be 50% from alcohol, 25% from food, and 25% from a membership subscription.

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 Bradley Notaro (the “Applicant”) on behalf of Social Pets Columbia, LLC t/a Bark Social ("Bark Social"), has applied for a New Class D, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on sale license for a 4,500 sq. ft. tavern with a 2,500 sq. ft. patio and a 15,500 sq. ft. dog park located at 5801 Merriweather Drive, Columbia, MD 21044.

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 Bradley Notaro is a Maryland state 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 Bradley Notaro (the “Applicant”) on behalf of Social Pets Columbia, LLC t/a Bark Social ("Bark Social"), has applied for a New Class D, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on sale license for a 4,500 sq. ft. tavern with a 2,500 sq. ft. patio and a 15,500 sq. ft. dog park located at 5801 Merriweather Drive, Columbia, MD 21044.

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 Bradley Notaro 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.

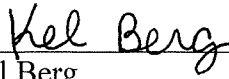
ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 29th day of September, 2025, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED** that the application of Bradley Notaro (the "Applicant") on behalf of Social Pets Columbia, LLC t/a Bark Social ("Bark Social"), for a New Class D, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on sale license for a 4,500 sq. ft. tavern with a 2,500 sq. ft. patio and a 15,500 sq. ft. dog park located at 5801 Merriweather Drive, Columbia, MD 21044, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicant comply with all State and County Rules and Regulations; and
- (b) That the Applicant satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by February 26, 2026, 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

_____/S/_____
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

_____/S/_____
Claire Kim, Member