

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF JAMES	*	
RICHARD II ON BEHALF OF	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
MILFUEGO, LLC T/A CELIA'S	*	
CUBAN CUISINE FOR AN	*	FOR
EXTENSION OF PREMISES	*	
FOR A CLASS B BEER, WINE	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
AND LIQUOR 7-DAY LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 25-26
	*	

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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 9, 2025, the Hearing Board heard the application of James Richard II (the "Applicant"), on behalf of Milfuego, LLC t/a Celia's Cuban Cuisine ("Celia's Cuban Cuisine"), for an extension of premises for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-Day License for a 2,284 sq. ft. restaurant with a 227 sq. ft. patio located at 6420 Freetown Road, #165, 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 represented by Linda Carter, Esquire and there were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

All the documents on file were incorporated into the record by reference.

### **PROFFER**

Ms. Carter proffered that the patio will be dog friendly with 16 seats. Ms. Carter stated that a dedicated server will oversee the patio area and that customers will be prohibited from

walking off the patio with an open container. Ms. Carter stated that the patio is enclosed by planters, and that customers who want to take drinks from the indoor area to the patio will have their drinks carried by an employee. Ms. Carter stated that the restaurant has had no previous liquor violations, and that Mr. Richard is actively involved in the business operations.

### **SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

James Richard II, 20% interest holder and current resident agent, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Richard testified that alcohol on the patio will be served in plastic glasses and that he plans to have the business name printed on the glassware. Mr. Richard stated that the percentage of alcohol sales was not expected to change with the addition of the patio.

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 James Richard II, (the "Applicant"), on behalf of Milfuego, LLC t/a Celia's Cuban Cuisine ("Celia's Cuban Cuisine"), has applied for an extension of premises for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-Day License for a 2,284 sq. ft. restaurant with a 227 sq. ft. patio located at 6420 Freetown Road, #165, 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 James Richard II, 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 James Richard II (the “Applicant”), on behalf of Milfuego, LLC t/a Celia’s Cuban Cuisine (“Celia’s Cuban Cuisine”), has applied for an extension of premises for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-Day License for a 2,284 sq. ft. restaurant with a 227 sq. ft. patio located at 6420 Freetown Road, #165, 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 James Richard II, 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**

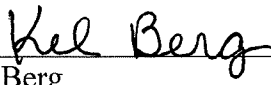
For the foregoing reasons, it is this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of James Richard II (the “Applicant”), on behalf of Milfuego, LLC t/a Celia’s Cuban Cuisine (“Celia’s

Cuban Cuisine”), for an extension of premises for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-Day License for a 2,284 sq. ft. restaurant with a 227 sq. ft. patio located at 6420 Freetown Road, #165, 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 laws and regulations;
- (b) That the Applicant satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by March 9, 2026 unless that deadline is extended by the Board upon good cause shown;
- (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**

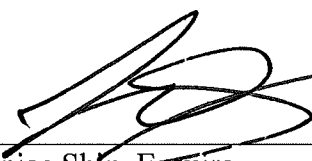
  
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Kel Berg  
Board Administrator

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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

\_\_\_\_\_  
/S/  
Claire Kim, Member