

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF LUIGI PALMA-	*	
ESPOSITO ON BEHALF OF VIVA	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
ITALIAN KITCHEN PIZZA BAR,	*	
LLC T/A VIVA ITALIAN KITCHEN	*	FOR
PIZZA BAR FOR A NEW CLASS B	*	
BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR 7-DAY	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
ON/OFF SALE LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 25-38
	*	

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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 December 9, 2025, the Hearing Board heard the application of Luigi Palma-Esposito (the "Applicant") on behalf of ViVa Italian Kitchen Pizza Bar, LLC t/a ViVa Italian Kitchen Pizza Bar ("ViVa Italian Kitchen Pizza Bar"), for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on/off sale license for a 3,520 sq. ft. restaurant with an 800 sq. ft. outdoor patio located at 7600 Hearthside Way, Suite 500, Elkridge, MD 21075.

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 Melvin Kodenski, 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.

### **SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

Luigi Palma-Esposito, 100% interest holder and proposed resident agent, was sworn in and

testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Palma-Esposito testified that he has been a Howard County resident for 22 years and that he owns 3 other restaurants. Mr. Palma-Esposito stated that he owned Pasta Blitz in Laurel in 2006, and that he changed the restaurant concept and the name to Facci in 2010. Mr. Palma-Esposito stated that he has owned Facci in Ellicott City since 2013 and a restaurant in Baltimore since 2024. Mr. Palma-Esposito stated that he has had no incidents at any of the restaurants and that he plans to employ 15 staff members, including 2 managers. Mr. Palma-Esposito stated that all staff will be Alcohol Awareness Certified and that the hours of operation will be Thursday to Sunday from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. Mr. Palma-Esposito stated that he plans to open at the end of December and that the restaurant will serve affordable Italian and American cuisine. Mr. Palma-Esposito stated that he is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations and that alcohol sales at the restaurant will be less than 20% of the gross sales. Mr. Palma-Esposito stated that he will visit all 4 restaurants every day, that he has 2 to 3 managers at each location, and that the managers at the new restaurant will be Alcohol Awareness Certified. Mr. Palma-Esposito stated that he had a violation at Pasta Blitz in 2008 due to applying late for the liquor license renewal, which resulted in a failure to display the license. Mr. Palma-Esposito stated that in 2012, he had a violation at Facci in Laurel for selling a bottle of wine for off-premise consumption without following the requirements. Mr. Palma-Esposito stated that the patio will be enclosed.

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 Luigi Palma-Esposito (the "Applicant") on behalf of ViVa Italian Kitchen Pizza Bar, LLC t/a ViVa Italian Kitchen Pizza Bar ("ViVa Italian Kitchen Pizza Bar"), has applied for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on/off sale license for a 3,520 sq. ft. restaurant with an 800 sq. ft. outdoor patio located at 7600 Hearthside Way, Suite 500, Elkridge, MD 21075.

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 Luigi Palma-Esposito 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 Luigi Palma-Esposito (the "Applicant") on behalf of ViVa Italian Kitchen Pizza Bar, LLC t/a ViVa Italian Kitchen Pizza Bar ("ViVa Italian Kitchen Pizza Bar"), has applied for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on/off sale license for a 3,520 sq. ft. restaurant with an 800 sq. ft. outdoor patio located at 7600 Hearthside Way, Suite 500, Elkridge, MD 21075.

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 Luigi Palma-Esposito 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED** that the application of Luigi Palma-Esposito (the "Applicant") on behalf of ViVa Italian Kitchen Pizza Bar, LLC t/a ViVa Italian Kitchen Pizza Bar ("ViVa Italian Kitchen Pizza Bar"), for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on/off sale license for a 3,520 sq. ft. restaurant with an 800 sq. ft. outdoor patio located at 7600 Hearthside Way, Suite 500, ElkrIDGE, MD 21075, 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 June 9, 2026, unless that deadline is extended by the Hearing Board upon good cause shown; and
- (c) That the Applicant provide evidence of enclosing the patio before serving alcohol outside; and
- (d) 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  
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

/S/  
Beth Johnson, Member

Hyunjae Shin  
Hyunjae Shin, Esquire  
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

/S/  
Claire Kim, Member