

IN THE MATTER OF THE * BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF GAURAV *
BHATIA AND SANJAY ANAND * BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
ON BEHALF OF BHI, INC. T/A *
BARE BONES GRILL & BAR * FOR
FOR A TRANSFER OF A CLASS *
B BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR * HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
7-DAY ON/OFF SALE LICENSE *
* Case No.: 25-41
*

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 Gaurav (Sonny) Bhatia and Sanjay Anand (the “Applicants”), on behalf of BHI, Inc. t/a Bare Bones Grill & Bar (“Bare Bones Grill & Bar”), for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on/off sale License for a 4,300 sq. ft. restaurant with a 694 sq. ft. patio located at 9150 Baltimore National Pike, #22, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

The hearing was properly advertised, and the property posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Mr. Martin Johnson was hired as a consultant for the Applicants 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

Martin Johnson, consultant for the Applicants, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Johnson testified as to the location of the restaurant and stated that the business has been operating for 37 years. Mr. Johnson stated that Mr. Anand is an investor and will not be involved in the daily activities of the restaurant. Mr. Johnson stated that Mr. Bhatia is a Maryland resident and that for the past year, he has been learning about the business with Mr. Joseph Reese, the current licensee. Mr. Johnson stated that Mr. Anand does not have retail alcohol experience, but that he does own 2 tow truck companies. Mr. Johnson stated that all but 1 staff member will be staying on at the restaurant. Mr. Johnson stated that he provided the applicants with Alcohol Awareness Training.

Gaurav (Sonny) Bhatia, 49% interest holder and proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Bhatia testified that he grew up in Howard County and he stated that the restaurant includes a dining room, a bar area, a banquet room and outdoor seating. Mr. Bhatia testified as to the menu offerings and stated that the restaurant provides live music and TV sports viewing. Mr. Bhatia stated that they staff over 100 employees and that 5 employees are Alcohol Awareness Certified. Mr. Bhatia stated that he is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations and that he understands his role as the resident agent. Mr. Bhatia stated that there is always an Alcohol Awareness Certified employee on site and that the restaurant has had no violations. Mr. Bhatia stated that he is at the restaurant over 65 hours a week, that he has been managing the business for the past 5 months, and that he is in contact with the Liquor Inspector. Mr. Bhatia stated that there are 5 managers employed at the restaurant, and that 2 managers are

typically on-site at all times. Mr. Bhatia stated that he serves the community by volunteering and supporting schools and local sports teams. Mr. Bhatia stated that the outdoor area is mainly utilized in the warmer months.

Jessica Butler, manager, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Ms. Butler stated that she has worked at the restaurant for 18 years, that she is primarily a bar server, and that she trains all staff. Ms. Butler stated that they card anyone appearing under the age of 30, that an ID guidebook is on-site, that both of her children work at the restaurant and that the restaurant has many regular customers. Ms. Butler stated that she has a day-time job and that the restaurant hosts many clubs and events. Ms. Butler stated that the restaurant concept will not be changing, that she is at the restaurant Wednesday through Sunday, and that she lives 12 minutes away. Ms. Butler stated that only the managers are Alcohol Awareness Certified.

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 Gaurav Bhatia and Sanjay Anand (the “Applicants”), on behalf of BHI, Inc. t/a Bare Bones Grill & Bar (“Bare Bones Grill & Bar”), have applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day on/off sale License for a 4,300 sq. ft. restaurant with a 694 sq. ft. patio located at 9150 Baltimore National Pike, #22, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

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 Gaurav Bhatia, 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 Gaurav Bhatia and Sanjay Anand (the "Applicants"), on behalf of BHI, Inc. t/a Bare Bones Grill & Bar ("Bare Bones Grill & Bar"), have applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on/off sale License for a 4,300 sq. ft. restaurant with a 694 sq. ft. patio located at 9150 Baltimore National Pike, #22, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

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 Gaurav Bhatia, 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 30th day of January, 2026, by the

Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Gaurav Bhatia and Sanjay Anand (the “Applicants”), on behalf of BHI, Inc. t/a Bare Bones Grill & Bar (“Bare Bones Grill & Bar”), for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on/off sale License for a 4,300 sq. ft. restaurant with a 694 sq. ft. patio located at 9150 Baltimore National Pike, #22, Ellicott City, MD 21042, 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;
- (b) That the Applicants 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) 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**


Hyunjae Shin, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

/S/

Ed Coleman, Member

/S/

Beth Johnson, Member

/S/

Claire Kim, Member