

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF NATHAN	*	
SOWERS ON BEHALF OF	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
RIVER HOUSE PIZZA CO.,	*	
LLC T/A RIVER HOUSE ON	*	FOR
MAIN FOR A TRANSFER OF	*	
A CLASS B BEER, WINE AND	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
LIQUOR 7-DAY ON SALE LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 26-09
	*	

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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 February 24, 2026, the Hearing Board heard the application of Nathan Sowers (the “Applicant”), on behalf of River House Pizza Co., LLC t/a River House on Main (“River House on Main”), for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 3,592 sq. ft. restaurant located at 8293 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

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**

Nathan Sowers, 100% interest holder and current resident agent, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Sowers testified that River House Pizza Co. was originally located in historic Ellicott City. Mr. Sowers stated that before he opened his own restaurant he trained as a chef and baker at Tersiguel's French Country Restaurant in Ellicott City, and that during a flood, River House Pizza Co. and the bakery at Tersiguel's French Country Restaurant were forced to close. Mr. Sowers stated that he relocated his pizza restaurant to Route 40, but when Tersiguel's French Country Restaurant closed in December he wanted to move his restaurant back to Ellicott City. Mr. Sowers stated that he lives in the historic district and that he has been a resident since early 2000.

Mr. Sowers stated that the restaurant is a food-forward bistro focused on hospitality and community gatherings. Mr. Sowers stated that he will have double the square footage at this new location, that he plans to hire more employees, and that all employees will be Alcohol Awareness Certified. Mr. Sowers stated that he is Alcohol Awareness Certified, that he has had a liquor license for 9 years, and that he previously had a state-wide catering license. Mr. Sowers stated that he utilizes ID scanners and that everyone ordering alcohol will be carded. Mr. Sowers stated that alcohol sales will be 25% of the total gross sales. Mr. Sowers stated that he plans to work 40 to 60 hours a week at the restaurant and that his wife will be the operations manager. Mr. Sowers stated that the restaurant serves pizza, pasta, French-style casual dishes and desserts. Mr. Sowers stated that he plans to open in April, that the restaurant will not be renovated, and that the seating areas will not be changed. Mr. Sowers stated that his restaurant on Route 40 closed at the end of February, and that his manager of 5 years and a few of the shift leaders will be coming to work at the new location.

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 Nathan Sowers (the “Applicant”), on behalf of River House Pizza Co., LLC t/a River House on Main (“River House on Main”), has applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 3,592 sq. ft. restaurant located at 8293 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

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 Nathan Sowers, 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 Nathan Sowers (the “Applicant”), on behalf of River House Pizza Co., LLC t/a River House on Main (“River House on Main”), has applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 3,592 sq. ft. restaurant located at 8293 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

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 Nathan Sowers, 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.

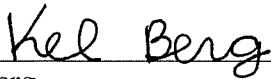
**ORDER**

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Nathan Sowers (the “Applicant”), on behalf of River House Pizza Co., LLC t/a River House on Main (“River House on Main”), for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 3,592 sq. ft. restaurant located at 8293 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043, 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 August 24, 2026 unless that deadline is extended by the Hearing Board upon good cause shown; and
- (c) That anyone in leadership positions be Alcohol Awareness Certified before opening; 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  
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

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/S/  
Beth Johnson, Member

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/S/  
Claire Kim, Member