

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF RAJIV KUMAR	*	
AGGARWAL ON BEHALF OF JS	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
BREWERY, LLC T/A JS BREWERY	*	
FOR A CHANGE IN CLASS FOR A	*	FOR
CLASS D BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR	*	
7-DAY ON/OFF SALE LICENSE +	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
NEWON-SITE CONSUMPTION	*	
PERMIT - DISTILLERY	*	Case No.: 26-24
	*	

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 July 21, 2026, the Hearing Board heard the application of Rajiv Kumar Aggarwal (the “Applicant”) on behalf of JS Brewery, LLC t/a JS Brewery (“JS Brewery”) for a change in class for a Class D Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on/off sale License and a New On-site Consumption Permit - Distillery for a 2,606 sq. ft. brewery and taproom located at 8970-B Route 108, Columbia, MD 21045.

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 Applicant 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 Applicant, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Johnson testified that JS Brewery opened last year and that the business wants to expand as a distillery to produce a second type of Korean product. Mr. Johnson stated that the business is primarily an educational facility about Korean culture, and he stated that Mr. Aggarwal has already received Federal and State approval. Mr. Johnson stated that liquor stores do not carry the products that Mr. Aggarwal sells.

Rajiv Kumar Aggarwal, 50% interest holder and current resident agent, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Aggarwal testified that he makes small barrel makgeolli (a Korean rice wine) and that he spends most of his time educating customers about the history of makgeolli. Mr. Aggarwal stated that he plans to produce traditional soju, which is the purpose for the change in class of the current liquor license. Mr. Aggarwal stated that the business is not a sit-down restaurant and that there is no bar on the premises. Mr. Aggarwal stated that the Korean Embassy is interested in using his facility as a showcase for different types of Korean alcohol. Mr. Aggarwal stated that he sells 3.75 mL bottles, that the beverage is sipped, that the average customer visits for 2 to 3 hours and that he usually serves 6 to 8 people at a time. Mr. Aggarwal stated that he does not have a kitchen but that he serves Korean snacks. Mr. Aggarwal stated that the hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. and that he may extend his hours to 8 p.m. for special events. Mr. Aggarwal stated that he plans to offer classes, that he and his wife are both Alcohol Awareness Certified and that they are the only people who work there. Mr. Aggarwal stated that they are open 20 hours a week, that he works all hours and that his wife works half of

that time. Mr. Aggarwal stated that he plans to make 100 gallons (10 gallons a month) of the distilled product.

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 Rajiv Kumar Aggarwal (the “Applicant”) on behalf of JS Brewery, LLC t/a JS Brewery (“JS Brewery”) has applied for a change in class for a Class D Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on/off sale License and a New On-site Consumption Permit - Distillery for a 2,606 sq. ft. brewery and taproom located at 8970-B Route 108, Columbia, MD 21045.

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 Rajiv Kumar Aggarwal 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 Rajiv Kumar Aggarwal (the “Applicant”) on behalf of JS Brewery, LLC t/a JS Brewery (“JS Brewery”) has applied for a change in class for a Class D Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on/off sale License and a New On-site Consumption Permit

- Distillery for a 2,606 sq. ft. brewery and taproom located at 8970-B Route 108, Columbia, MD 21045.

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 Rajiv Kumar Aggarwal 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 will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

ORDER

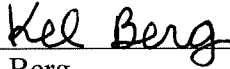
For the foregoing reasons, it is this 10th day of September, 2026, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED** that the application of Rajiv Kumar Aggarwal (the "Applicant") on behalf of JS Brewery, LLC t/a JS Brewery ("JS Brewery") for a change in class for a Class D Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on/off sale License and a New On-site Consumption Permit - Distillery for a 2,606 sq. ft. brewery and taproom located at 8970-B Route 108, Columbia, MD 21045, 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 January 21, 2027, unless that deadline is extended by the Hearing Board upon good cause shown; and

- (c) That the Class D Beer License is approved, with the On-site Consumption Permit – Brewery being contingent upon the Applicant providing evidence of successfully obtaining a Class 5 Manufacturer’s License and satisfying any other federal and state requirements; 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

_____/S/_____
Beth Johnson, Member

_____/S/_____
Claire Kim, Member