

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF DARIO ORELLANA	*	
AND DARIO JAVIER ORELLANA	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
ON BEHALF OF ODJ, LLC T/A	*	
EL AGUILA FOR A NEW CLASS	*	FOR
B BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR	*	
7-DAY ON/OFF SALE LICENSE	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
	*	
	*	Case No.: 26-29
	*	

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 29, 2026, the Hearing Board heard the application of Dario Orellana and Dario Javier Orellana (the “Applicants”), on behalf of ODJ, LLC t/a El Aguila (“El Aguila”), for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on/off sale License for a 7,866 sq. ft. restaurant with a 700 sq. ft. patio located at 10035 Baltimore National Pike, 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. The Applicants were represented by Dmitri Chernov, 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

Mr. Chernov proffered that the news leaked out that El Aguila was going to open at the former Glory Days Grill location in Ellicott City and that they have had a lot of community interest.

Mr. Chernov stated that they would like to open as soon as possible because alcohol is an important component of the restaurant. Mr. Chernov stated that Mark Egert was the previous general manager at Glory Days Grill and that because of his extensive experience there he will be working at El Aguila. Mr. Chernov stated that the El Aguila location on Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring had 2 liquor violations in 2016 and 2017 for sales to minors. Mr. Chernov stated that the Applicants will agree to allow Mr. Egert to be the resident agent.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Dario Orellana, 0% interest holder and proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Orellana testified that he has been in the restaurant industry for 42 years, that he previously worked for Marriott Hotels as a food and beverage manager, and that he opened his first El Aguila restaurant in 1999. Mr. Orellana stated that he manages 2 El Aguila restaurants in Silver Spring, that both locations are licensed to serve alcohol, and that he has incurred no liquor violations. Mr. Orellana stated that the restaurant serves Tex-Mex cuisine with different types of Latin food, that he plans to open the new Howard County restaurant in mid-October, and that he expects alcohol sales to be 20% of the total gross sales. Mr. Orellana stated that he will manage the new restaurant and that he understands his role as the resident agent. Mr. Orellana stated that he plans to bring on 25 employees from the restaurants in Silver Spring and hire another 25 employees in addition to having managers and a bookkeeper at the new location. Mr. Orellana stated that he will have 4 other managers and an employee trainer and that all current employees are Alcohol Awareness Certified. Mr. Orellana stated that he is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations and that he is Alcohol Awareness Certified. Mr. Orellana stated that he will work 40 to 50 hours a week, that the interior of the restaurant will only need

cosmetic changes, and that they will mainly offer margaritas and wine. Mr. Orellana stated that he was not aware of any violations of sales to minors in 2023 or alcohol awareness violations in 2017 at the Randolph Road location. Mr. Orellana stated that he is aware of labeling issues and that they now document the contents of their mixed drinks.

Dario Javier Orellana, 100% interest holder and proposed licensee, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Orellana testified that he resides in Silver Spring and that he has over 10 years of restaurant experience working under his father. Mr. Orellana stated that he has owned and managed a deli in Virginia for 2 years but that it does not serve alcohol. Mr. Orellana stated that he is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations and that he is familiar with the record keeping requirements with regard to employees and alcohol. Mr. Orellana stated that he will work 60 hours a week at the restaurant.

Mark Egert, general manager, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Egert testified that he has over 10 years of restaurant experience, that he previously worked at Glory Days Grill for 8 years and that he is familiar with the facility. Mr. Egert stated that alcohol will be stored in a locked cage and locked cooler in the basement and that only minimal alcohol will be kept upstairs in the restaurant. Mr. Egert stated that he has been working with various distributors for over 10 years, he testified as to the location of the establishment, and he stated that he has developed connections with businesses and schools in the community. Mr. Egert stated that he will work 5 to 6 days a week. Mr. Egert stated that there are 2 exits on the patio with closeable gates. Mr. Egert stated that anyone ordering alcohol is carded, that a manager monitors the patio, and that signage will indicate that alcohol is not permitted outside of the gates.

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 Dario Orellana and Dario Javier Orellana (the “Applicants”), on behalf of ODJ, LLC t/a El Aguila (“El Aguila”), have applied for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on/off sale License for a 7,866 sq. ft. restaurant with a 700 sq. ft. patio located at 10035 Baltimore National Pike, 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 concerns with undisclosed liquor violations with regard to Rule 4.10 regarding Alcohol Awareness and Rule 5.02 regarding Sales to Minors.

4. The Hearing Board finds that Mark Egert, the general manager, should apply as the resident agent applicant, meeting the requirements of Rules 1.10(S), 1.10(T), and 2.06 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations concerning resident agent qualifications.

5. The Hearing Board finds that the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.

6. 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 Dario Orellana and Dario Javier Orellana (the “Applicants”), on behalf of ODJ, LLC t/a El Aguila (“El Aguila”), have applied for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on/off sale License for a 7,866 sq. ft. restaurant with a 700 sq.

ft. patio located at 10035 Baltimore National Pike, 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 finds concerns with undisclosed liquor violations with regard to Rule 4.10 regarding Alcohol Awareness and Rule 5.02 regarding Sales to Minors.

4. The Hearing Board concludes that Mark Egert, the general manager, should apply as the resident agent applicant, meeting the requirements of Rules 1.10(S), 1.10(T), and 2.06 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations concerning resident agent qualifications.

5. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.

6. 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 26th day of October, 2026, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Dario Orellana and Dario Javier Orellana (the "Applicants"), on behalf of ODJ, LLC t/a El Aguila ("El Aguila"), for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on/off sale License for a 7,866 sq. ft. restaurant with a 700 sq. ft. patio located at 10035 Baltimore National Pike, 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 March 19, 2027 unless that deadline is extended by the Hearing Board upon good cause shown;

- (c) That the resident agent be changed to the general manager, Mark Egert, and that a revised application be submitted; 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


Hyunjae Shin, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

ABSENT
Beth Johnson, Member

/S/
Claire Kim, Member