

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF EMILY ELISABETH	*	
KLANK, CHRISTOPHER A. TOMASSO	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
AND JAY A. WOLSZCZAK ON BEHALF	*	
OF FIRST WATCH RESTAURANTS,	*	FOR
INC. T/A FIRST WATCH FOR A	*	
RESIDENT AGENT CHANGE FOR A	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
CLASS B BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR	*	
7-DAY ON/OFF SALE LICENSE	*	Case No.: 26-28
	*	

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 Emily Elisabeth Klank, Christopher A. Tomasso and Jay A. Wolszczak (the “Applicants”), on behalf of First Watch Restaurants, Inc. t/a First Watch (“First Watch”), for a resident agent change, replacing Krista Nicole Wagner, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on/off sale license for a 3,503 sq. ft. restaurant with a 325 sq. ft. exterior located at 6478 Dobbin Center Way, Suite 300, Columbia, MD 21045.

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 Leanne Schrecengost, 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

Emily Elisabeth Klank, 0% interest holder and proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Ms. Klank testified that the information provided in her application is correct and that she has no felony or gambling convictions or liquor violations. Ms. Klank stated that she has been a Maryland resident for 12 years, and that she is a compliance officer with First Watch Restaurants, Inc. Ms. Klank stated that she is the general manager, that she oversees all operations, and that she works 50 hours a week at the restaurant. Ms. Klank stated that she started in the culinary field 17 years ago and that she has been in management for 10 years. Ms. Klank stated that the business concept will not change, that she is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations and that she understands her role as the resident agent. Ms. Klank stated that there are 2 other general managers who are Alcohol Awareness Certified and that the other 2 licensees live in Florida, so she will be fully responsible for the restaurant. Ms. Klank stated that the previous resident agent has moved to North Carolina and is no longer with the company. Ms. Klank stated that she has incurred no alcohol violations, that the restaurant serves breakfast and lunch, and that the hours of operation are from 7:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. every day. Ms. Klank stated that alcohol is not a primary focus and that they only offer 5 drinks, which are mimosas, a cinnamon milk drink, sangria, a pomegranate sunrise, and a spiked lavender lemonade. Ms. Klank stated that they do not offer a full-service bar and that they use vodka and tequila to make their drinks. Ms. Klank stated that there are 28 employees and that 12 of those employees plus 3 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 Emily Elisabeth Klank, Christopher A. Tomasso and Jay A. Wolszczak (the “Applicants”), on behalf of First Watch Restaurants, Inc. t/a First Watch (“First Watch”), have applied for a resident agent change, replacing Krista Nicole Wagner, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on/off sale license for a 3,503 sq. ft. restaurant with a 325 sq. ft. exterior located at 6478 Dobbin Center Way, Suite 300, Columbia, MD 21045.

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 Emily Elisabeth Klank, 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 Emily Elisabeth Klank, Christopher A. Tomasso and Jay A. Wolszczak (the “Applicants”), on behalf of First Watch Restaurants, Inc. t/a First Watch (“First Watch”), have applied for a resident agent change, replacing Krista Nicole Wagner, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on/off sale license for a 3,503 sq. ft. restaurant with a 325 sq. ft. exterior located at 6478 Dobbin Center Way, Suite 300, Columbia, MD 21045.

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 Emily Elisabeth Klank, 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 26th day of October, 2026, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Emily Elisabeth Klank, Christopher A. Tomasso and Jay A. Wolszczak (the “Applicants”), on behalf of First Watch Restaurants, Inc. t/a First Watch (“First Watch”), for a resident agent change, replacing Krista Nicole Wagner, for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on/off sale license for a 3,503 sq. ft. restaurant with a 325 sq. ft. exterior located at 6478 Dobbin Center Way, Suite 300, Columbia, MD 21045, 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; and
- (b) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by March 29, 2027, 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**

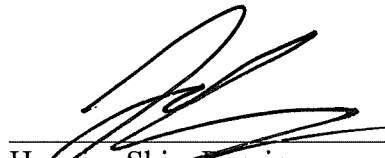
Kel L. Berg
Kel L. Berg
Board Administrator

/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