

IN THE MATTER OF THE	* BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF JENNIFER	*
CONCEPCION ON BEHALF OF	* BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
TORO COLUMBIA, LLC T/A	*
MADRID SPANISH TAVERNA	* FOR
FOR A NEW CLASS B BEER,	*
WINE, AND LIQUOR 7- DAY	* HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
LICENSE	*
	* CASE No.: 22-23

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 May 24, 2022, the Hearing Board heard the application of Jennifer Concepcion (the “Applicant”) on behalf of Toro Columbia, LLC t/a Madrid Spanish Taverna (“Madrid Spanish Taverna”) for a new Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day license for a 2,734 square foot restaurant, with a 700 square foot outdoor patio located 8872 McGaw Road, Suite G, Columbia, MD 21044.

The hearing was properly advertised, and the property posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicant was represented by David F. Mister of Mister, Winter, & Bartlett, LLC. There were no protestants

who appeared in opposition to the application. All of the documents on file were incorporated into the record by reference.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Jennifer Concepcion, 10% owner and proposed resident agent, was sworn in, and testified before the Hearing Board.

Ms. Concepcion testified that she lives in Howard County Maryland, is a licensee for The Greene Turtle Sports Bar & Grille (“The Greene Turtle”) in Columbia, Maryland, and has been certified in Training for Intervention Procedures since January 25, 2021 with no violations during her tenure. Ms. Concepcion stated that she currently works in branding and marketing for The Greene Turtle Corporation. Ms. Concepcion stated that she works three days a week at The Greene Turtle’s corporate office in Columbia, Maryland, and two days a week hybrid. Ms. Concepcion testified that she currently visits The Greene Turtle two times per week for four to six hours per visit. Ms. Concepcion testified that she intends to visit Madrid Spanish Taverna during busy weekend hours, dividing the time previously spent at The Greene Turtle between the two establishments. Ms. Concepcion testified that she lives fifteen minutes from Madrid Spanish Taverna’s location and that her main work location, The Green Turtle’s corporate office, is fifteen minutes from Madrid Spanish Taverna. Ms. Concepcion testified that she will be available to address problems at the restaurant on short notice due to her living and working fifteen minutes away.

Mr. Abe Ruiz, Consultant for The Greene Turtle Franchising Corporation was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Ruiz testified that he is a resident of Roswell, Georgia, and that he is the founder and operator of a restaurant there, using his "Madrid Taverna" concept since May, 2021. Mr. Ruiz

testified that he gives back to the Roswell, Georgia community with charitable donations and training programs for aspiring restaurateurs. Mr. Ruiz testified that he entered into a business relationship with The Greene Turtle Franchising Corporation to open Madrid Spanish Taverna based on his "Madrid Taverna" concept.

Mr. Ruiz testified that he intends to visit the restaurant every other week to ensure his concept is presented as he envisioned it, and that he intends to hire 15 staff members. Mr. Ruiz testified that he plans to open the restaurant in mid-June with minimal renovations, which will consist of paint and decor to the interior of the restaurant and an outdoor fenced in patio.

Mr. Ruiz testified to Madrid Spanish Taverna's menu, and that it features traditional Spanish cuisine. Mr. Ruiz testified that he will depend on the current regional management team to oversee daily restaurant operations. Mr. Ruiz testified that the staff will monitor customers so as not to allow alcohol to enter the premises from the outside or allow open containers of alcohol to leave the restaurant.

Randal Black, Regional Director for Toro Columbia, LLC was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Black testified that he is a resident of Hanover, Pennsylvania. Mr. Black testified that he will work 2 to 3 days per week on Madrid Spanish Taverna's premises to hire and train staff, and assist with the daily and opening operational needs. Mr. Black testified to the policy and practice for the front house wait staff of at least 10 people to be certified in Training for Intervention Procedures for Alcohol Awareness within 30 days of employment. Mr. Black testified that there will always be 1 or 2 managers on duty, and that the business hours are Sunday through Thursday 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Mr. Black testified to the policy and practices of conducting daily pre-shift meetings, emphasizing

alcohol awareness training standards, identification checks for any patrons that appear to be under 40 years of age, and denial of alcohol service to avoid over-serving customers. Mr. Black testified that even though he is not a licenseholder, he will be called on to conduct business at the establishment.

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicant waived her 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 Jennifer Concepcion, on behalf of Toro Columbia, LLC t/a Madrid Spanish Taverna, has applied for a new Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day license for a 2,734 square foot restaurant with a 700 square foot outdoor patio located at 8872 McGaw Road, Suite G, Columbia, Maryland 21044.

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 Jennifer Concepcion is a Howard County 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 this application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Hearing Board concludes that Jennifer Concepcion, on behalf of Toro Columbia, LLC t/a Madrid Spanish Taverna, has applied for a new Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day license for a 2,734 square foot restaurant with a 700 square foot outdoor patio located at 8872 McGaw Road, Suite G, Columbia, Maryland 21044.

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 Jennifer Concepcion meets the requirements of Rules 1.1 0(S), 1.1 0(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.

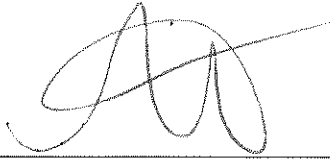
5. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of this application would not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the neighborhood.

ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 1st day of July, 2022, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED**, that the application of Jennifer Concepcion, on behalf of Toro Columbia, LLC t/a Madrid Spanish Taverna for a new Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day license for a 2,734 square foot restaurant with a 700 square foot outdoor patio located at 8872 McGaw Road, Suite G, Columbia, Maryland 21044. is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:


- (a) That the Applicant comply with all State and County laws and regulations; and
- (b) That the Applicant satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by November 24, 2022, unless that deadline is extended by the Hearing Board upon good cause shown; and
- (c) That the Applicant provide drawings or photos of the proposed 2,734 square foot interior space and a layout of the 700 square foot outdoor space to include barriers, tables, railing, ingress, and egress points; and
- (d) Failure to comply with these conditions shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:



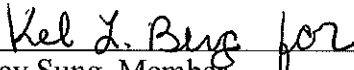
Ashley Aguilar
Board Administrator

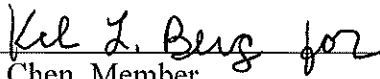
**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND**

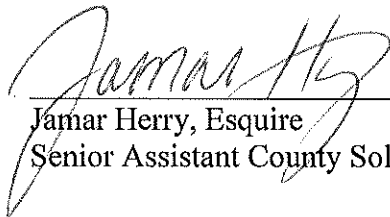

Mary Bird, Chairperson

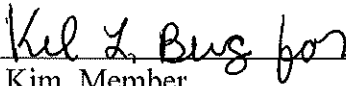

Harry Evans, Vice-Chairperson

**REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY
OFFICE OF LAW
GARY W. KUC
COUNTY SOLICITOR**


Charley Sung, Member


Steven Chen, Member


Jamar Herry, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor


Claire Kim, Member