

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF KIMBERLY	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
ELIZABETH HART AND	*	
CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL ROPKO	*	FOR
ON BEHALF OF HI CONCESSIONS	*	
COLUMBIA, LLC T/A HAMPTON	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
INN & SUITES FOR A	*	
RESIDENT AGENT CHANGE ON A	*	
CLASS D 1 BEER & LIGHT WINE	*	Case No.: 21-34
7-DAY ON-SALE LICENSE	*	

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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 August 10, 2021, the Hearing Board heard the application of Kimberly Elizabeth Hart (the “Applicant”) on behalf of HI Concessions Columbia, LLC t/a Hampton Inn & Suites (“Hampton Inn”) for a resident agent change from William Spirou Green on a Class D Beer & Light Wine 7 day on-sale license for a 70,623 square foot hotel located at 7045 Minstrel Way, Columbia, MD 21046.

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 Leanne M. Schrecengost, Esq. 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

Kimberly Elizabeth Hart, proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified that she holds 10% financial interest and is an authorized person in HI Concessions Columbia LLC.

Ms. Hart testified that she lives in Howard County, is a registered voter in Howard County, and is alcohol awareness certified. Ms. Hart testified that she is the General Manager and her duties include managing the front desk, customer service, and maintenance of the hotel. Ms. Hart stated that she is at the hotel 60 to 70 hours a week. Ms. Hart testified her experience in the hotel industry spans over 10 years, managing four of those years and one year at the proposed licensed location. Ms. Hart stated that she completed the TIPS alcohol awareness class. Ms. Hart testified that 30 employees work at the hotel and only 7 employees are involved with serving alcohol and they have all completed TIPS alcohol awareness training.

Ms. Hart testified that the hotel's policy is to card everybody and the hotel employees do not accept vertical identification cards. Ms. Hart stated that if a guest has no identification, then no alcohol will be served. Ms. Hart testified alcohol will be served at the hotel from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., seven days a week. Ms. Hart testified the alcohol will be served in bottles and not open containers. Ms. Hart testified that she has read and understands the Board's Rules and Regulations and that the Board will look to her for any liquor violations.

Mr. Ropko, 90 % owner of financial interest and current licensee, attended the hearing and was available to testify. Ms. Schrecengost indicated that Mr. Ropko will remain on the license. The Board did not ask Mr. Ropko to testify.

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 on appeal.

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 Kimberly Elizabeth Hart (the “Applicant”) on behalf of HI Concessions Columbia, LLC t/a Hampton Inn & Suites (“Hampton Inn”) for a resident agent change from William Spirou Green on a Class D Beer & Light Wine 7 day on-sale license for a 70,623 square foot hotel located at 7045 Minstrel Way, Columbia, MD 21046.

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 Kimberly Elizabeth Hart is a resident of Howard County, is a registered voter, and a 10% interest holder of HI Concessions Columbia, LLC.

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 Kimberly Elizabeth Hart (the “Applicant”) on behalf of HI Concessions Columbia, LLC t/a Hampton Inn & Suites (“Hampton Inn”) has applied for a resident agent change from William Spirou Green on a Class D Beer & Light Wine 7 day on-sale license for a 70,623 square foot hotel located at 7045 Minstrel Way, Columbia, MD 21046.

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 Kimberly Elizabeth Hart 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.

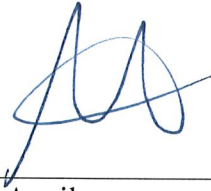
5. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of this application would not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the neighborhood.

**ORDER**

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 28 day of Sept, 2021, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED** that the application of Kimberly Elizabeth Hart (the “Applicant”) on behalf of HI Concessions Columbia, LLC t/a Hampton Inn & Suites (“Hampton Inn”) for a resident agent change from William Spirou Green on a Class D Beer & Light Wine 7 day on-sale license for a 70,623 square foot hotel located at 7045 Minstrel Way, Columbia, MD 21046, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

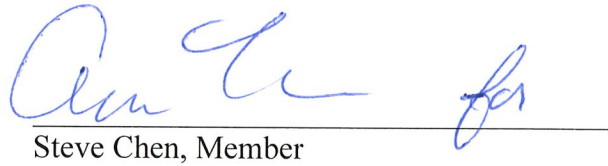
- (a) That the Applicant comply with all State and County Rules and Regulations; and
- (b) That the Applicant satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by December 15, 2021 unless that deadline is extended by the Board upon good cause shown; and
- (c) Failure to comply with these conditions shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

**ATTEST:**

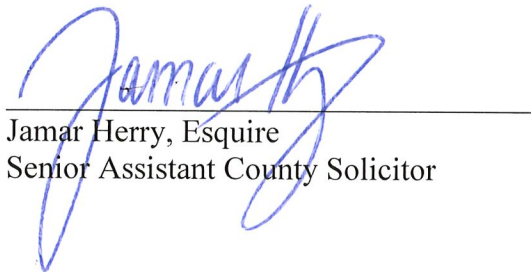


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Ashley Aguilar  
Board Administrator

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Bird, Chairperson  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Harry Evans, Vice-Chairperson  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Chen, Member

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamar Herry, Esquire  
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Not Present)  
Claire Kim, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Not Present)  
Charley C. Sung, Member