

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF CHARLES F.	*	
CHANDLER AND CHRISTOPHER	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
MICHAEL ROPKO ON BEHALF OF	*	
HI CONCESSIONS COLUMBIA, LLC,	*	OF HOWARD COUNTY
T/A HAMPTON INN & SUITES, FOR A	*	
TRANSFER OF A CLASS D BEER	*	CASE NO. 19-15
AND WINE 7-DAY ON-SALE LICENSE	*	
	*	

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 March 12, 2019, the Hearing Board heard the application of Charles F. Chandler and Christopher Michael Ropko (the “Applicants”), on behalf of HI Concessions Columbia, LLC, t/a Hampton Inn & Suites (“Hampton Inn”), for a transfer of a Class D Beer and Wine 7-day on-sale license from Lee K. Gabler and John Craig (Jack) Hancharick, on behalf of Hospitality Concessions of Columbia, LLC, t/a Hampton Inn & Suites, 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 Applicants were represented by Leanne Schrecengost, Esquire. 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

Charles Chandler, general manager of the hotel, was sworn and testified that he has lived in Howard County for ten years, is a registered voter and is alcohol awareness certified. He testified that no changes will be made to the hotel or its operations.

Mr. Chandler testified that there are five to six employees that will be involved with alcohol sales and they are all alcohol awareness certified and new employees will be required to be certified within the first 30 days of employment. Mr. Chandler testified that he has received and reviewed the Board's Rules and Regulations and will abide by them.

Mr. Chandler testified that beer and wine will be sold at the front desk of the hotel. He stated that the beer and wine will be kept in a refrigerator adjacent to the front desk and the refrigerator will be kept locked with limited access. Mr. Chandler stated that half bottles of wine will be sold along with individual beers and patrons usually take the alcohol to their rooms to drink.

Christopher Ropko, Chief Financial Officer and 90% owner, was sworn and testified that there will be no changes taking place at the hotel. He testified that there have been no violations at the other hotels that he oversees. Mr. Ropko testified that he has received and reviewed the Board's Rules and Regulations and will abide by them.

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 Charles F. Chandler and Christopher Michael Ropko on behalf of HI Concessions Columbia, LLC t/a, Hampton Inn & Suites, have applied for a transfer of a Class D Beer and Wine 7-day on-sale license from Lee K. Gabler and John Craig (Jack) Hancharick, on behalf of Hospitality Concessions of Columbia, LLC, t/a Hampton Inn & Suites, for a 70,623-square foot hotel located at 7045 Minstrel Way, Columbia, MD 21046.

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 Charles F. Chandler has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and has a 10% interest in Hampton Inn & Suites.

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 Charles F. Chandler and Christopher Michael Ropko on behalf of HI Concessions Columbia, LLC, t/a Hampton Inn & Suites, have applied for a transfer of a Class D Beer and Wine 7-day on-sale license from Lee K. Gabler and John Craig (Jack) Hancharick, on behalf of Hospitality Concessions of Columbia, LLC, t/a Hampton Inn & Suites, for, for a 70,623-square foot hotel located at

7045 Minstrel Way, Columbia, MD 21046.

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 Charles F. Chandler 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 would not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the neighborhood.

ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 26th day of March, 2019, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Charles F. Chandler and Christopher Michael Ropko on behalf of HI Concessions Columbia, LLC, t/a Hampton Inn & Suites, for a transfer of a Class D Beer and Wine 7-day on-sale license from Lee K. Gabler and John Craig (Jack) Hancharick, on behalf of Hospitality Concessions of Columbia, LLC, t/a Hampton Inn & Suites, 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 Applicants comply with all State and County Rules and Regulations; and
- (b) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the


license by June 26, 2019, 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:

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND

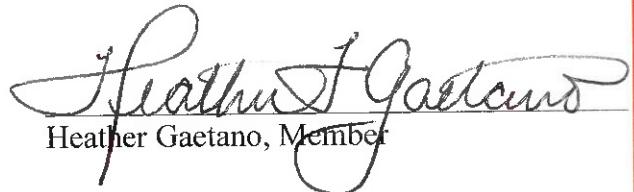

Robin Regner
Board Administrator



Gene Ryan, Chairperson


Mary Bird, Vice Chairperson

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

ABSENT AT TIME OF SIGNING
Charles C. Feaga, Member


Heather Gaetano, Member


Lewis Taylor, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor


Charley C. Sung, Member