

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF JOYCE ANN	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
RODRIGUE AND GREGORY	*	FOR
SKENDERIS ON BEHALF OF	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
STENOMA, LLC, T/A KONSTANTINE'S	*	
GREEK TAVERNA, FOR A NEW	*	
CLASS B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR	*	Case No.: 19-45
7-DAY ON SALE LICENSE AND	*	
SBW OFF-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 October 22, 2019, the Hearing Board heard the application of Joyce Ann Rodrigue and Gregory Skenderis ("Applicants") on behalf of Stenoma, LLC, t/a Konstantine's Greek Taverna ("Konstantine's"), for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license and SWB off-sale license for a 6,800 square foot restaurant and a 120,910 square foot patio, back yard, and parking lot located at 12857 Highland Road, Highland, MD 20777.

The hearing was properly advertised and the property posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants were not represented by counsel. 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

Mr. Gregory Skenderis, 90% owner and proposed licensee, was sworn and testified as follows:

Mr. Skenderis testified that he managed a family restaurant in DC, Zorba's Café, for over 30 years which sold beer and wine. Mr. Skenderis indicated that they never received a liquor violation. Mr. Skenderis also stated that he has catering experience. He said that he volunteered with the DC Police Department for eighteen years while running the Zorba's restaurant, so he is aware of and has respect for liquor laws and is alcohol awareness certified.

Mr. Skenderis testified that Konstantine's has been in business for four months without a liquor license. His customers have expressed a consistent desire for Konstantine's to serve alcohol. He testified that they will sell Greek wines off-sale which are not typically found in liquor stores as well as other wines and beer.

He stated that the outdoor licensed areas will primarily be for large events such as weddings or fundraising events. He further stated that the entire property is fenced. He indicated that he will add staff when needed for large events. He testified that the restaurant recently participated in the Taste of Howard County and gives 15% off for veterans.

The following exhibits were submitted into the record:

- *Applicants' Exhibit #1 - Menu*
- *Applicants' Exhibit #2 - Photos of the restaurant and grounds*
- *Applicants' Exhibit #3 - Alcohol Service Training certificates*

Joyce Ann Rodrigue, 10% owner and proposed resident agent, was sworn and testified as follows:

Ms. Rodrigue testified that She has lived in Howard County for more than two years

and is a registered voter. She testified that she has known Mr. Skenderis for over ten years, is aware of the rules and regulations regarding alcohol, is certified in alcohol awareness and will be at the restaurant regularly.

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 Joyce Ann Rodrigue and Gregory Skenderis on behalf of Stenoma, LLC, t/a Konstantine's Greek Taverna, have applied for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license and SWB off-sale license for a 6,800 square foot restaurant and a 120,910 square foot patio, back yard and parking lot located at 12857 Highland Road, Highland, MD 20777.

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 Joyce Ann Rodrigue has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and has a 10% interest in Konstantine's.

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 Joyce Ann Rodrigue and Gregory Skenderis on behalf of Stenoma, LLC, t/a Konstantine's Greek Taverna, have applied for a

new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license and SWB off-sale license for a 6,800 square foot restaurant and a 120,910 square foot patio, back yard and parking lot located at 12857 Highland Road, Highland, MD 20777.

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 Joyce Ann Rodrigue 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**

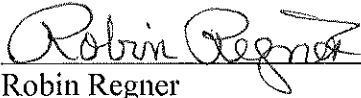
For the foregoing reasons, it is this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2019, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED**, that the application of Joyce Ann Rodrigue and Gregory Skenderis on behalf of Stenoma, LLC, t/a Konstantine's Greek Taverna, for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license and SWB off-sale license for a 6,800 square foot restaurant and a 120,910 square foot patio, back yard and parking lot located at 12857 Highland Road, Highland, MD, 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 provide the name of the franchisor to the Board;
- (c) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by January 5, 2020, unless that deadline is extended by the Board upon good cause shown; 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



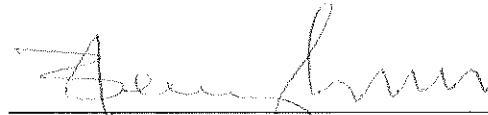
Robin Regner  
Board Administrator



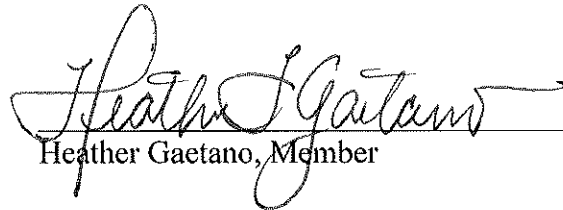
Gene Ryan, Chairperson

Absent AT TIME OF SIGNING  
Mary Bird, Vice Chairperson

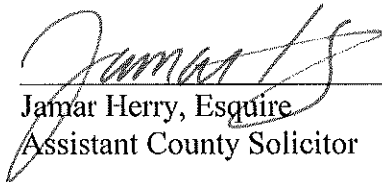
REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY  
OFFICE OF LAW  
GARY W. KUC  
COUNTY SOLICITOR



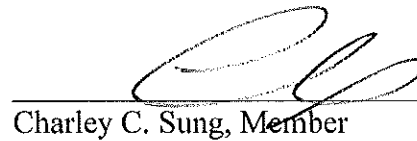
Harry Evans, Member



Heather Gaetano, Member



Jamar Herry, Esquire  
Assistant County Solicitor



Charley C. Sung, Member