

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF MUHAMMAD	*	
SALMAN CHOUDHARY, WILLIAM	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
JOSEPH SHEEHAN, AND CARLOS	*	
RAUL FLORES ON BEHALF OF	*	FOR
SONESTA INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	*	
CORPORATION, t/a SONESTA ES	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
SUITES COLUMBIA, FOR A RESIDENT	*	
AGENT CHANGE, EXTENSION OF	*	
PREMISES, AND A CHANGE IN CLASS	*	
OF A CLASS B BEER, WINE AND	*	
LIQUOR	*	
	*	

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 November 13, 2014, the Hearing Board heard the application of Muhammad Salman Choudhary, William Joseph Sheehan, and Carlos Raul Flores ("Applicants"), on behalf of Sonesta International Hotels Corporation, t/a Sonesta ES Suites Columbia ("Sonesta International Hotels Corporation"), for a resident agent change from Glenwood Grover Groves to Muhammad Salman Choudhary, for an extension of premises from 1200 square feet to 67,105 square feet, and a change in class from a Class B Beer and Light Wine 7-day on-sale license to a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on-sale license located at 8844 Columbia 100 Parkway, Columbia, Maryland 21045. The hearing was properly advertised pursuant to Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants were represented by Ronald Spahn, Esquire. There were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

All the documents on file were incorporated into the record by reference. These include the following: the application; copies of the floor plan of Sonesta International Hotels Corporation; the background questionnaires from the Applicants; a copy of Employment Eligibility Verification from the Department of Homeland Security for Muhammad S. Choudhary; a copy of the Social Security card for Muhammad Salman Choudhary; a copy of the Maryland Driver's License for Muhammad Salman Choudhary; a copy of the Howard

County Maryland Voter Notification Card for Muhammad Salman Choudhary; a memorandum dated October 16, 2014, from the Liquor Board Administrator to the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector, the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, the Bureau of Environmental Health, and the Department of Planning and Zoning; the background investigation of Muhammad Salman Choudhary by the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector dated October 28, 2014; the background investigation of William J. Sheehan by the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector dated May 17, 2013; the background investigation of Carlos Raul Flores by the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector dated May 17, 2013; an email from the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits dated October 21, 2014; a letter dated October 28, 2014, from the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services; a letter dated October 16, 2014, to the Department of Finance; a letter dated October 17, 2014 from the Department of Finance; a letter dated October 16, 2014, to the Comptroller of Maryland; a letter dated November 7, 2014, from the Comptroller of Maryland; a fax transmission to the Applicants' attorney enclosing a letter dated October 16, 2014, with notification of the hearing date and the necessity to advertise; an email dated October 28, 2014, from the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector stating the premises had been posted; and certification of advertisement from The Baltimore Sun and Patuxent Publishing.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Muhammad Salaman Choudhary, the proposed resident agent, was sworn and testified that he has lived in Howard County since 1998, that he is a registered voter, and a front desk manager at Sonesta ES Suites Columbia. Mr. Choudhary testified that the alcoholic beverages are located next to the bar area, and that they are in a locked area. Mr. Choudhary testified that there is someone at the front desk 24 hours per day, and they only provide alcoholic beverages between 10:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M. Mr. Choudhary testified that he is alcohol awareness certified and that he has prior experience with serving alcoholic beverages, as he worked at Pizza Hut for ten months. Mr. Choudhary testified that there were no violations at Pizza Hut while he worked there. Mr. Choudhary testified that he understands the responsibility of being the resident agent.

Raymond Warden, was sworn and testified that he is the General Manager at Sonesta ES Suites Columbia. Mr. Warden testified that they are requesting to increase the premises to include the whole hotel, which has 118 rooms. Mr. Warden testified that they will have a small bar area which will seat approximately six to seven patrons. A refrigerator and freezer will be

located behind the bar, and they will be offering specialty coffees and smoothies, along with alcoholic beverages.

Mr. Warden testified that 90% of the employees handling alcoholic beverages will be alcohol certified.

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicant waived the right to request the Liquor Board to hear the case.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Hearing Board finds that Muhammad Salman Choudhary, William Joseph Sheehan, and Carlos Raul Flores on behalf of Sonesta International Hotels Corporation, t/a Sonesta ES Suites Columbia, have applied for a resident agent change from Glenwood Grover Groves to Muhammad Salman Choudhary, for an extension of premises from 1200 square feet to 67,105 square feet, and a change in class from a Class B Beer and Light Wine 7-day on-sale license to a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on-sale license located at 8844 Columbia 100 Parkway, Columbia, Maryland 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 Muhammad Salman Choudhary has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and a full time manager of Sonesta International Hotels Corporation, t/a Sonesta ES Suites Columbia.

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 in the neighborhood.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Hearing Board concludes that Muhammad Salman Choudhary, William Joseph Sheehan, and Carlos Raul Flores on behalf of Sonesta International Hotels Corporation, t/a Sonesta ES Suites Columbia, have applied for a resident agent change from Glenwood Grover Groves to Muhammad Salman Choudhary, for an extension of premises from 1200 square feet to 67,105 square feet, and a change in class from a Class B Beer and Light Wine 7-day on-sale license to a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on-sale license located at 8844 Columbia 100 Parkway, Columbia, Maryland 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 Muhammad Salman Choudhary meets the requirements of Rules 1.09(T), 1.09(U), 2.06, and 2.10 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 in the neighborhood.

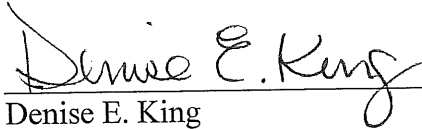
ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this ____ day of _____, 2015, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, Maryland **ORDERED** that the application of Muhammad Salman Choudhary, William Joseph Sheehan, and Carlos Raul Flores on behalf of Sonesta International Hotels Corporation, t/a Sonesta ES Suites Columbia, for a resident agent change from Glenwood Grover Groves to Muhammad Salman Choudhary, for an extension of premises from 1200 square feet to 67,105 square feet, and a change in class from a Class B Beer and Light Wine 7-day on-sale license to a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on-sale license located at 8844 Columbia 100 Parkway, Columbia, Maryland 21045, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED** subject to the following conditions:

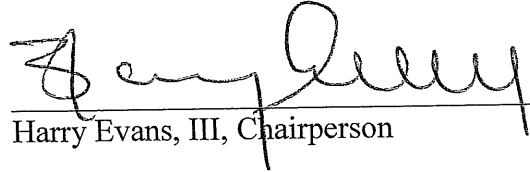
1. That this **PROPOSED DECISION AND ORDER** shall become final when the Applicants obtain the license and comply with the following conditions:
 - a. That the Applicants comply with all State and County rules and regulations; and
 - b. Failure to comply with these conditions and obtain the license by March 31, 2015, shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

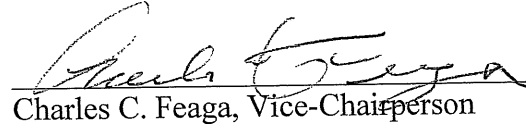
**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND**



Denise E. King
Administrator



Harry Evans, III, Chairperson



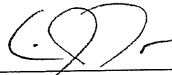
Charles C. Feaga, Vice-Chairperson

REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY
OFFICE OF LAW
MARGARET ANN NOLAN
COUNTY SOLICITOR

ABSENT

Mary Bird, Member

William Neault, Member



Lewis Taylor, Esquire
Assistant County Solicitor

ABSENT

Charley C. Sung, Member