

Testimony of Beth Johnson

Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board Nominee

Council Resolution CR42-2023

March 20, 2023

Good evening, Members of the County Council.

I want to thank you for considering me to serve on the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board and Deb Jung for nominating me. I am excited about this opportunity as it will allow me to use skills that I have acquired through my personal, professional, and life experiences for the benefit of Howard County.

I grew up in Massachusetts in a close-knit immigrant Armenian community where I learned about the importance of providing for your family, friends, and community. I supported myself from high school through my first 2 years of teaching by working in restaurants as a server and a manager. During those years I learned what makes a restaurant work, how to provide good customer service, and the importance of adhering to health requirements and liquor license laws.

My career has ranged from curriculum development and technical sales for Fortune 500 companies, to product marketing and management, enabling me to develop a strong customer service focus, good problem-solving skills and the ability to collaborate with others in groups from varying backgrounds.

My husband and I moved to Howard County twenty-six years ago as we thought this would be a great place to raise our family and participate in community events. I have two boys who attended Howard County public schools and for 14 years, I volunteered in the schools that my children attended. In 2016, I was presented the Friends of Education Award by the Howard County Board of Education for the contributions I had made in my children's schools.

At Wilde Lake High School I served as the Booster Club Vice President of Concession Stands for 4 years. In the first year, we incorporated better crowd management and health procedures as outlined by the Howard County Health Department. I also participated in the Health Department's Food Manager Certification Program.

I have served on multiple boards of directors, including Christ Episcopal Church Vestry, PTA and Booster boards. I have also planned events for friends, family and

organizations such as sports teams, the Howard County Special Olympics and Cub Scouts.

In summary, I will bring to this Board:

- Experience in leadership positions on a number of boards,
- An understanding of restaurant management and server responsibilities, and
- Knowledge of Howard County health regulations

I hope that this testimony gives you an idea of who I am, and the value I can add as a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board.

If confirmed, I look forward to serving the County.

Thank you for your time.