

IN THE MATTER OF THE * BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF SEEMA JAYKANT *
PAREKH, SRINIVAS V. PEMMARAJU, * BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
AND RADHA R. YADAVILLI ON *
BEHALF OF RAAS ENTERPRISES, * FOR
LLC, t/a MONTPELIER LIQUORS, FOR *
A TRANSFER OF A CLASS A-1 BEER, * HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
WINE, AND LIQUOR 7-DAY OFF-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 February 11, 2014, the Hearing Board heard the application of Seema Jaykant Parekh, Srinivas V. Pemmaraju, and Radha R. Yadavilli (“Applicants”), on behalf of RAAS Enterprises, LLC, t/a Montpelier Liquors (“RAAS Enterprises, LLC”), for a transfer of a Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day off-sale license currently held by Rupal D. Shah and Seema J. Parekh on behalf of P&S, LLC, t/a Montpelier Liquors, for a 2,500 square foot liquor store located at 7530 Montpelier Road, Laurel, Maryland 20723. The hearing was properly advertised pursuant to Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants were represented by Melvin J. Kodenski, Esquire. There were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

The following documents were presented to the Hearing Board and entered into the record: a letter dated November 20, 2013, from the Applicants’ attorney enclosing the transfer application for RAAS Enterprises, LLC; a copy of the Articles of Organization for RAAS Enterprises, LLC; a letter dated May 28, 2013 from the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation confirming acceptance of the Articles of Organization for RAAS Enterprises, LLC; a copy of the Asset Purchase Agreement between the seller, P&S, LLC, and the buyer, RAAS Enterprises; a copy of the Amendment to the Asset Purchase Agreement; a copy of the floor plan; the background investigation questionnaire from Radha R. Yadavilli; a

copy of the Maryland driver's license for Radha R. Yadavilli; a copy of the United States Permanent Resident card for Radha R. Yadavilli; a Certificate for completion of an alcohol awareness course for Radha R. Yadavilli; a copy of the criminal record check for Radha R. Yadavilli from the Maryland Criminal Justice Information System; a letter from the IRS assigning Radha R. Yadavilli an employer identification number; the background investigation questionnaire from Srinivas V. Pemmaraju; a copy of the Maryland Driver's license for Srinivas V. Pemmaraju; a copy of the United States Permanent Resident card for Srinivas V. Pemmaraju; a copy of the criminal record check for Srinivas V. Pemmaraju; a Certificate for completion of an alcohol awareness course for Srinivas V. Pemmaraju; the background investigation questionnaire from Semma Jaykant Parekh; a copy of the United States Passport for Seema Jaykant Parekh; a copy of the Maryland driver's license for Seema Jaykant Parekh; a letter dated January 12, 2014, from John S. Murray, Certified Trainer for an alcohol awareness course confirming the successful completion of the course by Seema J. Parekh; a memorandum dated January 15, 2014, from the Liquor Board 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 investigations of the Applicants by the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector dated January 23, 2014; a memorandum dated January 30, 2014, from the Department of Planning and Zoning; a letter dated January 16, 2014, to the Department of Finance; a letter dated January 31, 2014, from the Department of Finance; a letter dated January 16, 2014, to the Comptroller of Maryland; a letter dated January 29, 2014, from the Comptroller of Maryland; a fax transmission to the Applicants' attorney enclosing a letter dated January 16, 2014, with notification of the hearing date and the necessity to advertise; an email dated January 17, 2014, from the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector stating the premises had been posted.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Srinivas Pemmaraju, 45% owner of RAAS Enterprises, LLC, was sworn and testified that he has been working at Montpelier Liquors since May of 2013, and has been working 30 to 40 hours per week to become familiar with the business. Mr. Pemmaraju testified that he has taken an alcohol awareness course, and is familiar with the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations.

Mr. Pemmaraju testified that he works for Verizon during the day from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Mr. Pemmaraju testified that he will work at the store in the evenings, and that 90% of

their sales occur between 4:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M. Mr. Pemmaraju testified that he will be at the store from 12:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. on the weekends.

Mr. Pemmaraju testified that his wife, Radha Yadavilli, will be responsible for the financial part of the business, and will be a backup person if he is not available. Mr. Pemmaraju testified that the current resident agent, Seema Parekh, will remain on the license, and that they have a full time manager who is alcohol awareness certified and is responsible for ordering and placing the inventory on the shelves.

Mr. Pemmaraju testified that the store will operate the same, but that it had been neglected. Mr. Pemmaraju stated that he has cleaned the store and plans to offer better customer service. Mr. Pemmaraju testified that he has removed paper posters from the windows of the store, and has replaced them with scenery covers provided by distributors, which are more attractive. Mr. Pemmaraju testified that they have an ID card reader and that the store policy is to ask for identification from anyone appearing to be under the age of 40, even if they are regular customers.

Radha Yadavilli, 45% owner of RAAS Enterprises, LLC, was sworn and testified that she is the wife of Mr. Pemmaraju, and that she will help out at the store on weekends, if needed. Ms. Yadavilli testified that she has taken an alcohol awareness course, and that she is familiar with the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations.

Seema Parekh, 10% owner of RAAS Enterprises, LLC, was sworn and testified that she has been a Howard County resident for 21 years, that she is a register voter, and has been on the license since 2009 as the resident agent. Ms. Parekh testified that she has been helping in the store on the weekends.

The following Exhibit was entered into the record:

Exhibit #1 – a Google map showing the location of Montpelier Liquors

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicants chose to waive the right to request the Liquor Board to hear the case.

Based on the evidence presented at the hearing, the Hearing Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Hearing Board finds that Seema Jaykant Parekh, Srinivas V. Pemmaraju, and Radha R. Yadavilli on behalf of RAAS Enterprises, LLC, t/a Montpelier Liquors, have applied for a transfer of a Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day off-sale license currently held by Rupal D. Shah and Seema J. Parekh on behalf of P&S, LLC, t/a Montpelier Liquors, for a 2,500 square foot liquor store located at 7530 Montpelier Road, Laurel, Maryland 20723.

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 Seema Jaykant Parekh has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and a 10% shareholder of RAAS Enterprises, LLC, t/a Montpelier Liquors.

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 Seema Jaykant Parekh, Srinivas V. Pemmaraju, and Radha R. Yadavilli on behalf of RAAS Enterprises, LLC, t/a Montpelier Liquors, have applied for a transfer of a Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day off-sale license currently held by Rupal D. Shah and Seema J. Parekh on behalf of P&S, LLC, t/a Montpelier Liquors, for a 2,500 square foot liquor store located at 7530 Montpelier Road, Laurel, Maryland 20723.

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 Seema Jaykant Parekh meets the requirements of Rules 1.09(S), 1.09(T) and 2.10 of the Rules and Regulations of the Liquor Board 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.

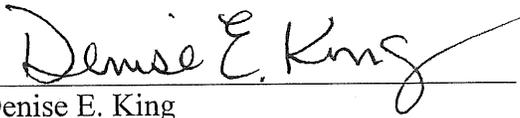
ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, by a unanimous vote, it is this 20th day of March, 2014, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, Maryland **ORDERED** that the application by Seema Jaykant Parekh, Srinivas V. Pemmaraju, and Radha R. Yadavilli on behalf of RAAS Enterprises, LLC, t/a Montpelier Liquors, for a transfer of a Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day off-sale license currently held by Rupal D. Shah and Seema J. Parekh on behalf of P&S, LLC, t/a Montpelier Liquors, for a 2,500 square foot liquor store located at 7530 Montpelier Road, Laurel, Maryland, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED** subject to the following conditions:

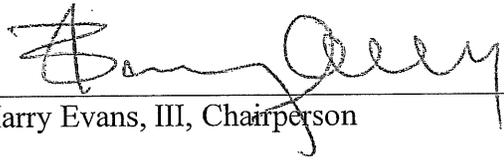
1. That this **PROPOSED DECISION AND ORDER** shall become final when the Applicants obtain the license and comply with the following conditions:
 - a. That the Applicants submit an Affidavit of Compliance with the Bulk Transfer Act; and
 - b. That the Applicants comply with all State and County rules and regulations; and
 - c. Failure to comply with these conditions and obtain the license before April 30, 2014, shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

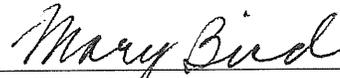
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND



Denise E. King
Administrator



Harry Evans, III, Chairperson



Mary Bird, Member

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

ABSENT

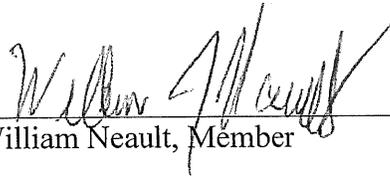
Lisa Lopez Friedman, Member



Charles C. Feaga, Member



Lewis Taylor, Esquire
Assistant County Solicitor



William Neault, Member