

PETITION TO FINE, SUSPEND, OR	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
REVOKE THE ALCOHOLIC	*	
BEVERAGE LICENSE HELD BY	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
THOMAS BUCHANAN, MANJIT KAUR,	*	
AND HARMANJEET SINGH RANGAR	*	FOR
ON BEHALF OF RANGAR	*	
CORPORATION, t/a COLUMBIA	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
PALACE WINE & SPIRITS	*	Case No. 15-9-V

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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"). This Proposed Decision and Order shall take effect immediately in accord with Rule 7.05(C), and shall become Final, as provided in Rule 6.13.

On February 24, 2015, the Hearing Board heard the Petition of Howard County, Maryland and Detective Mark Baxter, Alcoholic Beverage Inspector (collectively "Petitioners"), to Fine, Suspend, or Revoke the Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day off-sale license held by Thomas Buchanan, Manjit Kaur, and Harmanjeet Singh Rangar ("Licensees"), on behalf of Rangar Corporation, t/a Columbia Palace Wine & Spirits, located at 8775 Centre Park Drive, #4, Columbia, Maryland 21045. The Petitioners were represented by David Moore, Senior Assistant County Solicitor. The Licensees were represented by Dennis A. Hodge, Esquire.

All the documents on file were incorporated into the record by reference. These include the following: a letter dated October 7, 2014, to the Licensees, from the Liquor Board Administrator, advising them of the hearing date of January 27, 2015, and enclosing the Petition to Fine, Suspend, or Revoke the alcoholic beverage license for Rangar Corporation, t/a Columbia Palace Wine & Spirits; a letter dated December 23, 2014, from the Licensees' attorney, attaching a letter dated December 18, 2014, from Manjit Kaur, Licensee, requesting a postponement of the hearing date scheduled for January 27, 2015; a letter dated January 5, 2015, to the Licensees, from the Liquor Board Administrator, advising them of the hearing date

of February 24, 2015, and an email dated February 9, 2015, from the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector stating that the property had been posted.

### **STIPULATIONS**

Counsel for the Petitioners advised that they were withdrawing allegation #6 in paragraph 14 of the Petition and Counsel for the Licensees stipulated to the remaining allegations, including the following:

1. On May 13, 2014, Detective Mark Baxter was notified by Denise King, the Liquor Board Administrator, that Thomas Buchanan, the resident agent for Rangar Corporation, t/a Columbia Palace Wine & Spirits, had sent her an email to advise her that there was an issue with the liquor license for this establishment; specifically, that he wished to be removed as the resident agent because he had moved out of state. On May 21, 2014, Detective Baxter made telephone contact with Thomas Buchanan who advised him that within a few weeks after signing the renewal application for the establishment's liquor license in March, 2014, he found out he had to move out of state. Mr. Buchanan notified Harmanjeet Rangar, another licensee of the establishment, of this move.
2. Mr. Buchanan indicated that on April 20, 2014, Harmanjeet Rangar asked him to allow the establishment to continue to use his name and address on the license, even though he was moving out of state. Mr. Buchanan refused this request, and was subsequently "discharged" from the company.
3. Harmanjeet Rangar was aware of Thomas Buchanan's move to Florida on April 24, 2014.
4. On May 22, 2014, Detective Baxter conducted an inspection at Columbia Palace Wine & Spirits. Upon his arrival, Detective Baxter advised the manager on duty, Narayan "Andy" Dhakal of the inspection, who then contacted his supervisor, Jaisal "Singh" Rangar. Jaisal Rangar advised Detective Baxter he was the "executive manager", and that he is the brother of licensee, Harmanjeet Rangar.
5. During the course of the inspection, no one at the establishment was able to provide employee records. Jaisal Rangar advised that they were not at the location, but instead at home.

6. Upon questioning by Detective Baxter regarding the licensees, Jaisal Rangar advised that the resident agent was Thomas Buchanan, and that his address was 4803 High Hawk Court, Columbia, Maryland. Jaisal advised that his mother, Manjit Kaur, and his brother Harmanjeet Rangar, are the other current licensees, and they all live together as 13869 Rembrandt Way, Chantilly, Virginia.
7. Detective Baxter contacted Harmanjeet Rangar via telephone on May 22, 2014, and advised him of his inspection of the establishment. Detective Baxter requested that Harmanjeet confirm the names and addresses of the current licensees. Harmanjeet advised Detective Baxter that the current resident agent is Thomas Buchanan, and that he lives on High Hawk Court in Columbia, Maryland.
8. During this telephone conversation, Harmanjeet also advised that his mother, Manjit, was a licensee, and that she lives at 7001 Gentle Shade Road, Apt. #102, Columbia, Maryland, which is contrary to the address provided by Jaisal. Denise King, the Liquor Board Administrator, offered that the only indication that Manjit had a change of address to 7001 Gentle Shad Road, Columbia, Maryland was on the 2014 renewal application.
10. Specifically, the Licensees admitted that the operations of the restaurant violated the following Rules:
  - a. Liquor Board Rule 2.03 – Updated Application
  - b. Liquor Board Rule 2.06(A) – Resident Agent
  - c. Liquor Board Rule 4.01(D) – Records
  - d. Liquor Board Rule 4.04 – Compliance with Laws and Regulations
  - e. Liquor Board Rule 5.07 – Acts Contrary to Law

#### **SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

Harmanjeet Rangar, President and 45% shareholder for Rangar Corporation, t/a Columbia Palace Wine & Spirits, was sworn and testified that his resident agent, Thomas Buchanan, notified him that he wished to move in June or July of 2014. He stated that Mr. Buchanan told Mr. Rangar he was going to Florida in April for a couple of weeks to make arrangements for his move. Mr. Rangar testified that he assumed Mr. Buchanan would move in June or July, and that he would remain as the resident agent during that time. Mr. Ranger testified that Mr. Buchanan never advised him that he moved, and that he tried several times to reach him by

phone, left messages, but did not get any return calls. He stated that Mr. Buchanan's last day in the store was April 9 and that someone was hired to replace him shortly thereafter.

Mr. Rangar testified that he was actively looking for a resident agent during that time, but until recently, he was not able to find anyone. Initially, he was not aware the resident agent had to be a U.S. Citizen. Mr. Rangar testified that he submitted a resident agent change application in November 2014, but that the proposed resident agent just passed away. Mr. Rangar testified that he would submit another application within a week.

Regarding the employee records, Mr. Rangar testified that he was not aware of the Rules regarding employee records but that they now maintain all employee records at the store.

Mr. Rangar testified that they purchased the package goods store two years ago, and that they have not had any violations until now.

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

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Hearing Board finds that Thomas Buchanan, Manjit Kaur, and Harmanjeet Singh Rangar are the Licensees on behalf of Rangar Corporation, t/a Columbia Palace Wine & Spirits, a Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day off-sale license located at 8775 Centre Park Drive, #4, Columbia, Maryland 21045.
2. The Hearing Board finds that the Licensees have admitted to violating the following provisions of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations:
  - a. Liquor Board Rule 2.03 – Updated Application
  - b. Liquor Board Rule 2.06(A) – Resident Agent
  - c. Liquor Board Rule 4.01(D) – Records
  - d. Liquor Board Rule 4.04 – Compliance with Laws and Regulations
  - e. Liquor Board Rule 5.07 - Acts Contrary to Law
3. The Hearing Board finds that the Licensees have violated the following provisions of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations:
  - a. Liquor Board Rule 2.03 – Updated Application
  - b. Liquor Board Rule 2.06(A) – Resident Agent
  - c. Liquor Board Rule 4.01(D) – Records
  - d. Liquor Board Rule 4.04 – Compliance with Laws and Regulations

e. Liquor Board Rule 5.07 - Acts Contrary to Law

4. The Hearing Board finds that it is not necessary to revoke the liquor license, but because of the nature of this offense, and in order to ensure compliance with the law and Rules and Regulations, and to promote the peace and safety of the community, it is necessary to impose a fine in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars, (\$300.00), and a fee of Two Hundred Sixty Dollars, (\$260.00), for the cost of the hearing as provided by Rule 7.05(B), for a total of Five Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$560.00).

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Hearing Board concludes that Thomas Buchanan, Manjit Kaur, and Harmanjeet Singh Rangar are the Licensees on behalf of Rangar Corporation, t/a Columbia Palace Wine & Spirits, a Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day off-sale license located at 8775 Centre Park Drive, #4, Columbia, Maryland 21045.
2. The Hearing Board concludes that the Licensees have violated the following provisions of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations:
  - a. Liquor Board Rule 2.03 – Updated Application
  - b. Liquor Board Rule 2.06(A) – Resident Agent
  - c. Liquor Board Rule 4.01(D) – Records
  - d. Liquor Board Rule 4.04 – Compliance with Laws and Regulations
  - e. Liquor Board Rule 5.07 - Acts Contrary to Law
3. The Hearing Board concludes that it is not necessary to revoke the liquor license, but because of the nature of this offense, and in order to ensure compliance with the law and Rules and Regulations, and to promote the peace and safety of the community, it is necessary to impose a fine in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars, (\$300.00), and a fee of Two Hundred Sixty Dollars, (\$260.00), for the cost of the hearing as provided by Rule 7.05(B), for a total of Five Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$560.00).

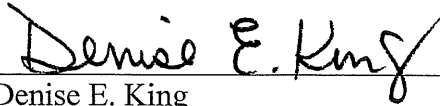
**ORDER**

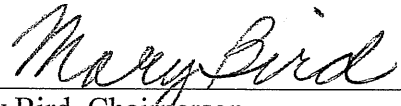
For the foregoing reasons, and upon finding a violation of Rules 2.03, 2.06(A), 4.01(D); 4.04; and 5.07 of the Liquor Board's Rules and Regulations, it is this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board for Howard County, Maryland, **ORDERED:**

That a **FINE IN THE AMOUNT OF Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00)**, for violation of Rules 2.03, 2.06(A), 4.01(D); 4.04; and 5.07 of the Liquor Board's Rules and Regulations, and a **Fee of Two Hundred Sixty Dollars, (\$260.00)**, for a total of **Five Hundred Sixty Dollars, (\$560.00)**, is **HEREBY IMPOSED** upon Thomas Buchanan, Manjit Kaur, and Harmanjeet Singh Rangar, the Licensees on behalf of Rangar Corporation, t/a Columbia Palace Wine & Spirits, a Class A-1 Beer, Wine and Liquor 7-day off-sale license located at 8775 Centre Park Drive, #4, Columbia, Maryland 21045, and **SHALL BE PAID NO LATER THAN APRIL 30, 2015.**

ATTEST:

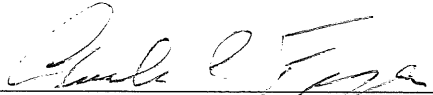
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING  
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,  
MARYLAND

  
Denise E. King  
Administrator


  
Mary Bird, Chairperson

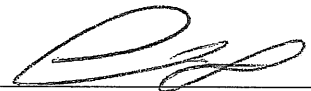
  
Harry Evans, III, Vice-Chairperson

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

  
Charles C. Feaga, Member

Heather Gaetano, Member

  
Lewis Taylor, Esquire  
Assistant County Solicitor

  
Charley C. Sung

ANY PERSON AGGRIEVED BY THIS DECISION AND ORDER MAY APPEAL THE  
DECISION TO THE LIQUOR BOARD WITHIN TEN DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE  
DECISION, IN ACCORD WITH RULE 6.14 OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF  
THE LIQUOR BOARD.