

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF PAUL NICK NOPULOS	*	
AND BUN SELAINE NOU ON BEHALF OF	*	BEVERAGE HEARING
KANTYA INTERNATIONAL, LLC, t/a	*	
VILLAGE LIQUORS, FOR A RESIDENT	*	BOARD FOR HOWARD
AGENT CHANGE ON A CLASS A-1 BEER,	*	
WINE, AND LIQUOR 7-DAY OFF-SALE	*	COUNTY, MD
LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No. 17-10

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 14, 2017, the Hearing Board heard the application of Paul Nick Nopulos and Bun Selaine Nou (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Kantya International, LLC, t/a Village Liquors (“Kantya International, LLC”), for a resident agent change from Robert LaPreze to Paul Nick Nopulos on a Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day off-sale license for a 2,900 square foot package goods store located at 12210 Clarksville Pike, Clarksville, Maryland 21029. The hearing was properly advertised pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants were represented by Thomas M. Meachum, 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: a letter dated November 17, 2016, from the attorney for the Applicants to the Liquor Board Administrator enclosing the application; copies of the background investigation questionnaires for the Applicants; a copy of the Maryland driving record for Paul Nick Nopulos from the Motor Vehicle Administration for the State of Maryland; an email dated November 18, 2016, from the attorney for the Applicants to the Liquor Board Administrator attaching two documents transferring the 10% interest from the old to the new resident licensee; a memorandum dated January 4, 2017, from the Liquor Board Administrator to the Alcohol Beverage Inspector, the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits, the Bureau of Environmental Health, the Department of Planning and Zoning, and the Office of the Fire Marshal; the background investigations of the Applicants by the Alcohol Beverage Inspector dated February 3, 2017; a memorandum dated February 10, 2017, from the Department of Planning and Zoning; an email dated February 8, 2017, from the Office of the Fire Marshal; a letter dated January 4, 2017, to the Department of Finance; letter from the Department of Finance; a letter dated January 4, 2017, to the Comptroller of Maryland; a letter dated February 6, 2017, from the Comptroller of Maryland; an email dated January 5, 2017, from the Liquor Board Administrator to the attorney for the Applicants, advising notification of the hearing date, and enclosing the required advertisement; an e-mail dated January 27, 2017, from the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector stating the premises had been posted, and a letter dated February 13, 2017, from the attorney to the Applicants, to the Liquor Board Administrator, enclosing the legal advertisements from the Howard County Times and the Baltimore Sun.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Thomas Meachum, attorney for the Applicants, proffered that Mr. Nopulos did not disclose the information on his DUI/DWI charge, because it had been expunged, and he did not think he had to disclose expunged information. Mr. Meachum stated that Mr. Nopulos and Mr. Nou had advised him about previous underage sale violations that were not reported on the application despite questions 8 and 9 on the application form and an additional question on the background questionnaire. Mr. Meachum explained that he did not understand that the Board required prior violations of alcoholic beverages law to be reported on the application and background questionnaire. The Hearing Board advised that they do expect such violations to be reported. Mr. Meachum stated that Mr. Nopulos was not trying to hide anything.

Paul Nopulos, Vice President and 10% shareholder of Kantya International, LLC, t/a Village Liquors, was sworn and testified that he has lived in Howard County for 12 years, that he is a registered voter, and is alcohol awareness certified. Mr. Nopulos testified that he has experience in the alcoholic beverage business, as he was the restaurant manager at the Double T Diner from 1980 through 1986. Mr. Nopulos testified that during that time, they did not have any violations. Mr. Nopulos testified that he was the kitchen manager at Browns Pub from 1990 through 1991, when he was helping a friend. He stated that he failed to disclose that he worked at Browns Pub on the background questionnaire because he forgot. Mr. Nopulos testified that he was employed at the Fox Briar Inn from 2001 through 2003, during which there was one violation.

Mr. Nopulos testified that he has discussed the store's policies with Mr. Nou. Mr. Nopulos testified that he plans to visit the store two to three times per week to make sure

that the employees are complying with the rules, and that there are no violations. Mr. Nopulos testified that he will use a Liquor Board Regulation Business Inspection form, and that they will keep that form on file at the store. Mr. Nopulos testified that he is familiar with the rules and regulations governing the sale of alcoholic beverages, and that he will abide by them.

The following Exhibit was entered into the record:

Exhibit 1 – a copy of the Liquor Board Regulations Business Inspection form for
Village Liquors of Clarksville

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 Paul Nick Nopulos and Bun Selaine Nou, on behalf of Kantya International, LLC, t/a Village Liquors, have applied for a resident agent change from Robert LaPreze to Paul Nick Nopulos on a Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day off-sale license for a 2,900 square foot package goods store located at 12210 Clarksville Pike, Clarksville, Maryland 21029.
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 Paul Nick Nopulos has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, a Vice President and 10% shareholder of Kantya International, LLC, t/a Village 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 the application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Hearing Board concludes that Paul Nick Nopulos and Bun Selaine Nou, on behalf of Kantya International, LLC, t/a Village Liquors, have applied for a resident agent change from Robert LaPreze to Paul Nick Nopulos on a Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day off-sale license for a 2,900 square foot package goods store located at 12210 Clarksville Pike, Clarksville, Maryland 21029.

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 Paul Nick Nopulos 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 finds that the granting of the application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 28th day of February 2017, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Paul Nick Nopulos and Bun Selaine Nou on behalf of Kantya International, LLC, t/a Village

Liquors, for a resident agent change from Paul LaPreze to Paul Nick Nopulos on a Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day off-sale license for a 2,900 square foot package goods store located at 12210 Clarksville Pike, Clarksville, Maryland 21029, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicants comply with all State and County laws; and
- (b) Failure to comply with these conditions and obtain the license by April 30, 2017, shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

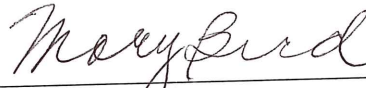
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND



Denise E. King
Administrator



Heather Gaetano, Chairperson

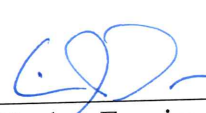


Mary Bird, Vice-Chairperson

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

Charles C. Feaga, Member

ABSENT
Gene Ryan, Member



Lewis Taylor, Esquire
Assistant County Solicitor

Charley C. Sung, Member