

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF LAKSHMI N.	*	
CHAKRAVARTHY, PARMINDER	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
SETHI, AND RAVEESH DEWAN	*	
ON BEHALF OF HOI, LLC t/a	*	FOR
HOUSE OF INDIA FOR A NEW	*	
CLASS B BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
7-DAY ON SALE LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 17-38

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 September 26, 2017, the Hearing Board heard the application of Lakshmi N. Chakravarthy, Parminder Sethi, and Raveesh Dewan (“Applicants”), on behalf of HOI, LLC t/a House of India, for a new Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on sale license, for a 1,970-square foot restaurant located at 9350 Snowden River Parkway, Suite F2, Columbia, Maryland 21045.

The hearing was properly advertised and the property posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants were not represented by counsel, however Parminder Sethi, licensee, acted as spokesperson. There were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

All the documents on file were incorporated into the record by reference.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Parminder Sethi, owner and licensee, was sworn and testified that this restaurant has been in operation for 15 years and that he took over the restaurant operations in January of 2016. He described the restaurant as a sit-down restaurant located in a strip mall serving north Indian cuisine and seating 82 people. Mr. Sethi stated that he has not made any structural changes to the restaurant and has only made minor changes to the menu. He offered the menus as exhibits. Mr. Sethi also testified that he has instituted an alcohol service policy for all employees serving alcohol and everyone will take the alcohol training course.

The following exhibits were introduced at the hearing:

1. Three menus
2. Photographs of the restaurant

Mr. Sethi testified that the restaurant ceased serving liquor on April 30, 2017 when the current license expired and they have been operating under a management agreement with the previous owner since they took ownership, however, it was a verbal agreement only. He testified that sales have gone down since the restaurant ceased serving alcohol and customers have been requesting that alcohol be served with their meals. Mr. Sethi testified that he will be the primary person running the day-to-day operations of the restaurant, however, there will be a manager on site that does not have ownership. Mr. Sethi will oversee the lunch and dinner hour and help with ordering food and equipment. He clarified to the Board that Maynard McAlpin, , has a 30% ownership in the restaurant but will not participate in the operations of the restaurant. Mr. Sethi testified that he is familiar with the Rules and Regulations of the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board and that he has taken the alcohol awareness class. He indicated that there will be 2 servers who are alcohol awareness certified on the premises.

Lakshmi N. Chakravarthy, resident agent, was sworn and testified that he is a 10% owner of the restaurant, has been a resident of Howard County for 11 years, is a registered voter, and is alcohol awareness certified.

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 Lakshmi N. Chakravarthy, Parminder Sethi, and Raveesh Dewan, on behalf of HOI, LLC t/a House of India, have applied for a new Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on sale license, for a 1,970-square foot restaurant located at 9350 Snowden River Parkway, Suite F2, 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 Lakshmi N. Chakravarthy has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and a 10% shareholder of HOI, LLC, t/a House of India.
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 Lakshmi N. Chakravarthy, Parminder Sethi, and Raveesh Dewan, on behalf of HOI, LLC t/a House of India, have applied for a new for a new Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on sale license, for a 1,970-square foot restaurant located at 9350 Snowden River Parkway, Suite F2, 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 Lakshmi N. Chakravarthy 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 would not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the neighborhood.

ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 10th day of October 2017, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Lakshmi N. Chakravarthy, Parminder Sethi, and Raveesh Dewan, on behalf of HOI, LLC t/a House of India, for a new for a new Class B, Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-day on sale license, for a 1,970-square foot restaurant located at 9350 Snowden River Parkway, Suite F2, Columbia, Maryland 21045, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:


(a) That the Applicants comply with all State and County laws and regulations; and

- (b) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by January 10, 2018, unless that deadline is extended by the Board upon good cause shown; and
- (c) Failure to comply with these conditions shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND


Robin Regner
Acting Administrator


Heather Gaetano, Chairperson

ABSENT
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