

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF ANIL KUMAR	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
SHARMA ON BEHALF OF SURYABA	*	OF
LLC T/A JJ LIQUORS FOR A	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
TRANSFER OF A CLASS A-1, BEER,	*	
WINE, & LIQUOR 7-DAY OFF-SALE	*	CASE NO. 19-50
LICENSE	*	

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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”).

On November 12 and December 10, 2019, the Hearing Board heard the application of Anil Kumar Sharma (the “Applicant”), on behalf of Suryaba LLC t/a JJ Liquors (“JJ Liquors”) for a transfer of a Class A-1, Beer, Wine, & Liquor 7-day off-sale license from Jason Chang on behalf of JJ Liquors, LLC t/a JJ Liquors for a 4,000 square foot package goods store located at 10010 Baltimore National Pike, Suite B110, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042.

The hearing was properly advertised and the property posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicant was represented by Joseph Kempler, Esquire. 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**

Anil Kumar Sharma, 100% owner of Suryaba LLC and proposed resident agent, was sworn and testified that he has been a Howard County resident for 5-6 years and is purchasing this store as the current owner did not have enough inventory to make the liquor store successful. Mr. Sharma testified that he will increase the inventory at this location by investing between \$200,000 and \$250,000 of his own money. Mr. Sharma testified that he does not plan to make any changes to the layout or structure of the store. He stated that he is not currently working at JJ Liquors as the sale has not yet been completed, however, money for the purchase has been placed into escrow.

Mr. Sharma testified that he has had experience as the manager of another liquor store from 2004-2007, Earl's Super Liquor Store in Oxen Hill, Maryland, and has never been involved in a liquor violation at this location. He stated that Earl's Super Liquor Store was 4,000 square feet in size and there were two employees in the morning and five employees in the evening.

Mr. Sharma testified that he started his own wholesale distribution business in 2010, and currently has 10 employees. He stated that he plans to work every day, full time, at JJ Liquors and that his manager will run his wholesale distribution business.

Mr. Sharma disclosed that he has had two DUIs in the past, one in 2010 and one in 2014, however, no longer drinks alcohol and expressed remorse for these incidents. He stated that in his first DUI he was given a PBJ and with the second DUI he was given probation for two years and had to report to a probation officer. Mr. Sharma stated that he also voluntarily attended 26 weeks of alcohol classes. Mr. Sharma testified that he

previously had a taxi business and did receive a violation related to recordkeeping.

Mr. Sharma testified that he is TIPs certified and that all of the employees at JJ Liquors will be TIPs certified as well. Mr. Sharma plans to be actively involved in the local community and will make donations to schools and to the local police.

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicant waived his 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 Anil Kumar Sharma, on behalf of Suryaba LLC t/a JJ Liquors has applied for a transfer of a Class A-1, Beer, Wine, & Liquor 7-day off-sale license from Jason Chang on behalf of JJ Liquors, LLC t/a JJ Liquors for a 4,000 square foot package goods store located at 10010 Baltimore National Pike, Suite B110, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042.
2. The Hearing Board finds that the Applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an alcoholic beverage license.
3. The Hearing Board finds that Anil Kumar Sharma has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and is a 100% owner of Suryaba LLC.
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 Anil Kumar Sharma, on behalf of Suryaba LLC t/a JJ Liquors has applied for a transfer of a Class A-1, Beer, Wine, & Liquor 7-day off-sale license from Jason Chang on behalf of JJ Liquors, LLC t/a JJ Liquors for a 4,000 square foot package goods store located at 10010 Baltimore National Pike, Suite B110, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042.

2. The Hearing Board concludes that the Applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board concludes that Anil Kumar Sharma meets the requirements of Rules 1.10(S), 1.10(T), and 2.06 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 31<sup>ST</sup> day of December, 2019, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Anil Kumar Sharma, on behalf of Suryaba LLC t/a JJ Liquors for a transfer of a Class A-1, Beer, Wine, & Liquor 7-day off-sale license from Jason Chang on behalf of JJ Liquors, LLC t/a JJ Liquors for a 4,000 square foot package goods store located at 10010 Baltimore National Pike, Suite B110, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

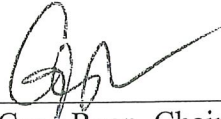
- (a) That the Applicant complies with all State and County Rules and Regulations; and
- (b) That the Applicant satisfies any requirements necessary to obtain the license by March 10, 2020, unless that deadline is extended by the Board upon good cause shown; and
- (c) Failure to comply with these conditions shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING  
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,  
MARYLAND



Robin Regner  
Board Administrator



Gene Ryan, Chairperson

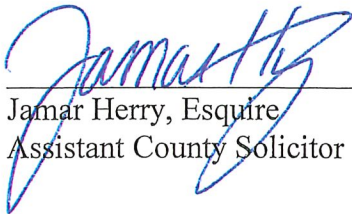


Mary Bird, Vice Chairperson

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

DISSENT

Harry Evans, Member



Jamar Herry, Esquire  
Assistant County Solicitor



Heather Gaetano, Member



Charley C. Sung, Member