

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF HENNA JAN AND	*	
NAVNEET KAUR GILL ON BEHALF	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
OFZIAMAHI, INC., T/A MINT INDIAN	*	
CUISINE & LOUNGE, FOR A CLASS B	*	FOR HOWARD COUNTY, MD
BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR 7 DAY ON	*	
SALE LICENSE	*	Case No.: 17-03

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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 December 20, 2016, the Hearing Board heard the application of Henna Jan and Navneet Kaur Gill (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Ziamahi, Inc., t/a Mint Indian Cuisine & Lounge, for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 3,300 square foot restaurant, located at 12447 Clarksville Pike, Unit 1E, Clarksville, MD 21029. The hearing was properly advertised pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants represented themselves and 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: the application submitted by the Applicants including a copy of the floor plan, copies of the background investigation questionnaires for the Applicants, Certificate of Naturalization for Henna Jan, criminal history record check for Henna Jan; a copy of the Articles of Incorporation for Ziamahi, Inc.; a memorandum dated October 14,

2016, from the Liquor Board Administrator to the Alcoholic 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 December 8, 2016; a memorandum dated November 14, 2016, from the Department of Planning and Zoning; a memorandum dated November 16, 2016, from the Bureau of Environmental Health; a letter dated December 2, 2016, from the Office of the Fire Marshal; a letter dated October 14, 2016, to the Department of Finance; a letter from the Department of Finance; a letter dated October 14, 2016, to the Comptroller of the Treasury; a letter dated December 14, 2016, from the Comptroller of Maryland; an e-mail dated October 21, 2016, from the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits; a fax transmission dated October 18, 2016, from the Liquor Board Administrator to the representative for the Applicants, enclosing a letter dated October 18, 2016, advising notification of the hearing date, and enclosing the required advertisement; a letter dated December 16, 2016, from Henna Jan to the Liquor Board Administrator notifying the Board about the hiring of a Hindi language interpreter to appear at the hearing; and an e-mail dated December 5, 2016, from the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector stating the premises had been posted.

#### **SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

Mr. Aqib Riaz Khan, interpreter for the Appellants, was sworn in by the Chairperson.

Neil Kamal, executive chef of the restaurant, was sworn in and testified that he has been in this industry for 22 years and has worked in restaurants all over the world. Mr. Kamal indicated he had completed an alcohol awareness course and will work in the restaurant 40-50 hours per week. He indicated the restaurant has done charity fundraising to

benefit the community. Mr. Kamal stated that he will supervise and train the kitchen and floor staff and will communicate with guests who visit the restaurant.

The following exhibits were submitted into the record at the hearing:

1. Double paged menu
2. Collection of color photographs (approximately 10)
3. Alcohol awareness certificates for Henna Jan, Navneet Gill, Usman Jan, Hinna Mirza, Donald Fuchs, and Neal Kamal .
4. Hard-bound green menu

Martin Johnson, retired Howard County Police officer and former Alcoholic Beverage Inspector for Howard County was sworn and stated that he is working to with the Applicants regarding alcoholic beverage licensing and service. He stated that this is a full-service restaurant with wait staff, and has 28 tables for dining and total seating for 84 customers, with no outdoor patio. Mr. Johnson will be providing training to staff related to serving alcohol at this restaurant.

Usman Jan, manager, was sworn and testified that he has 8 years of restaurant experience and will work approximately 20 hours per week at the restaurant. He indicated that the restaurant will be open 7 days a week from 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., there will be no negative effects on the neighborhood, there will be no live music and no outdoor seating, there is a well-lit parking lot and the restaurant has an on-site recycling program.

Henna Jan, 33% shareholder for Ziamahi, Inc., was sworn and testified that she has lived in Howard County for more than two years, is a registered voter, and is alcohol awareness certified. She testified that she will be a responsible owner, working at the restaurant approximately 30 hours per week. She indicated that she will have written alcohol policies to be reviewed by employees and that she is familiar with the rules and regulations governing the sale of alcoholic beverages and that she will abide by them.



Navneet Kaur Gill, 67% shareholder, was sworn and testified that she has had experience working in a restaurant.

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 Henna Jan and Navneet Kaur Gill, on behalf of Ziamahi, Inc., t/a Mint Indian Cuisine & Lounge, have applied for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 3,300 square foot restaurant, located at 12447 Clarksville Pike, Unit 1E, Clarksville, MD 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 Henna Jan has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and a member and 33% shareholder of Ziamahi, Inc., t/a Mint Indian Cuisine & Lounge.

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 Henna Jan and Navneet Kaur Gill, on behalf of Ziamahi, Inc., t/a Mint Indian Cuisine & Lounge, have applied for a new Class B

Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 3,300 square foot restaurant, located at 12447 Clarksville Pike, Unit 1E, Clarksville, MD 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 Henna Jan 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 this application would not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the neighborhood.

#### **ORDER**

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January 2017, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED**, that the application of Henna Jan and Navneet Kaur Gill, on behalf of Ziamahi, Inc., t/a Mint Indian Cuisine & Lounge, for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 3,300 square foot restaurant, located at 12447 Clarksville Pike, Unit 1E, Clarksville, MD 21029, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

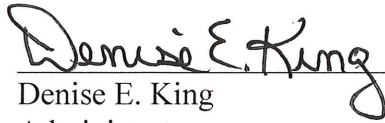
(a) That the Applicants comply with all State and County Rules and Regulations;  
and

(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.

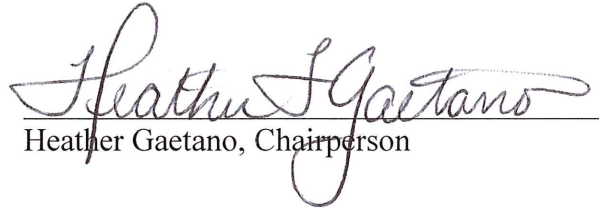
ATTEST:

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 AT TIME OF SIGNING  
Gene Ryan, Member



Lewis Taylor, Esquire  
Assistant County Solicitor

Absent  
Charley C. Sung, Member