

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF RISHABH	*	
MEHTA ON BEHALF OF	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
NSRI, INC T/A TONIC WINE	*	
AND SPIRITS FOR A TRANSFER	*	FOR
OF A CLASS A BEER, WINE AND	*	
LIQUOR 7-DAY OFF SALE	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 22-58
	*	

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 13, 2022, the Hearing Board heard the application of Rishabh Mehta (the “Applicant”), on behalf of NSRI, Inc. t/a Tonic Wine and Spirits (“Tonic Wine and Spirits”), for a transfer of a Class A Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day off sale License for a 1,495 square foot package store located at 11100 Barnsley Way, Suite D, Marriottsville, MD 21104.

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 Christopher DeCarlo, Esquire and there were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

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

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Rishabh Mehta, 100% interest holder and proposed resident agent, was sworn in and

testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Mehta testified that he is the sole owner of NSRI, Inc. and that he does not have a financial interest in any other alcoholic beverage licenses. Mr. Mehta stated that he has never been convicted of a felony, nor does he have any other violations. Mr. Mehta stated that he has been a resident of Howard County for 17 years and that he graduated from Towson University in 2020 with a degree in accounting and finance. Mr. Mehta stated that he currently has three jobs: managing his father's Cinnabon (6 years); working part-time for an auditing firm and working full-time at a CPA firm. Mr. Mehta stated that his goal is to own his own business and that he has experience ordering food, hiring employees, scheduling, and managing daily activities. Mr. Mehta stated that he has not yet closed on the purchase of this liquor store but that he has been managing the daily operations at the store under the interim agreement since October 2022. Mr. Mehta stated that he has had no issues at the business and that owning and operating Tonic Wine & Spirits will become his only full-time job once the business purchase has been completed.

Mr. Mehta stated that there are 3 to 4 employees, that he and everyone working at the store have been Alcohol Awareness Certified, and that he will require refresher courses. Mr. Mehta stated that a point-of-sale (POS) scanner is used for checking identification and that no modifications are being made to the store. Mr. Mehta stated that the business hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays. Mr. Mehta stated that miniature bottles and lottery tickets will be available on a limited basis, and that he will not sell single serve containers of alcohol. Mr. Mehta stated that he is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations and that his business will not unduly disturb the neighborhood. Mr. Mehta stated that he gives back to the community by serving on a non-profit

organization, and that he is capable of responsibly owning a business.

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 Rishabh Mehta (the "Applicant"), on behalf of NSRI, Inc. t/a Tonic Wine and Spirits ("Tonic Wine and Spirits"), has applied for a transfer of a Class A Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day off sale License for a 1,495 square foot package store located at 11100 Barnsley Way, Suite D, Marriottsville, MD 21104.

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 Mr. Rishabh Mehta, the resident agent applicant, 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 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 Rishabh Mehta (the "Applicant"), on behalf of NSRI, Inc. t/a Tonic Wine and Spirits ("Tonic Wine and Spirits"), has applied for a transfer of a Class A Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day off sale License for a 1,495 square foot package store

located at 11100 Barnsley Way, Suite D, Marriottsville, MD 21104.

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 Mr. Rishabh Mehta, the resident agent applicant, 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 will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 6th day of February 2023, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Rishabh Mehta (the "Applicant"), on behalf of NSRI, Inc. t/a Tonic Wine and Spirits ("Tonic Wine and Spirits"), for a transfer of a Class A Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day off sale License for a 1,495 square foot package store located at 11100 Barnsley Way, Suite D, Marriottsville, MD 21104, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicant comply with all State and County laws and regulations;
- (b) That the Applicant satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by June 13, 2023 unless that deadline is extended by the Hearing 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**


Kel L. Berg
Board Administrator (Acting)

Kel L. Berg for
Harry Evans, Chairperson

Kel L. Berg for
Charley Sung, Vice-Chairperson

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

Kel L. Berg for
Claire Kim, Member


Hyunjae Shin, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

ABSENT
Steve Chen, Member