

PETITION TO FINE, SUSPEND, OR	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
REVOKE THE ALCOHOLIC	*	
BEVERAGE LICENSE OF NEW	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
LISBON LIQUORS, LLC T/A LISBON	*	
LIQUORS IN THE NAME OF	*	FOR
KAVNEET KAUR CHAHIL FOR A	*	
CLASS A BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
7-DAY OFF SALE LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 25-21
	*	

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 July 22, 2025, the Hearing Board heard the Petition of Howard County, Maryland and Detective Mark Baxter, the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector (collectively “Petitioners”), to Fine, Suspend or Revoke the Class A Beer, Wine and Liquor 7-day off-sale License of Kavneet Kaur Chahil (the “Licensee” or “Respondent”), held on behalf of New Lisbon Liquors, LLC t/a Lisbon Liquors (“Lisbon Liquors”), located at 16109 Frederick Road, Woodbine, MD 21797.

The hearing was properly advertised, and the property posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Licensee was represented by Mr. Melvin Kodenski, Esquire. The Alcoholic Beverage Inspector and ATCC Agent were represented by Tsega Girma, Esquire.

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

ALLEGATIONS

Allegations of the Petition are set forth below:

- On July 29, 2024, Detective Mark Baxter received notice of an incident report filed by Agent Mike Sofelkanik from the State of Maryland Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis Commission (ATCC), regarding a violation of the Maryland Alcohol Beverage Article.
- The report stated that on July 17, 2024, Agent Sofelkanik entered Lisbon Liquors to conduct a routine alcohol inspection.
- Upon entering the store, Agent Sofelkanik spoke with Mr. Lakhvir Chahil, who stated that he is the owner of the establishment, and informed him of the reason for the visit.
- A thorough comparison of all alcohol and records was conducted and six 1.7 liter bottles of Bookers Bourbon were found, for which there were no purchase records.
- Mr. Chahil advised that the alcohol had been delivered by mistake, and that he had no purchase records for the six bottles of Bookers Bourbon.
- Mr. Chahil was advised that this was a violation of the Maryland Alcohol Beverage Law and that the bottles would be seized, and that a copy of Agent Sofelkanik's report would be given to the Howard County Liquor Board for further action. The alcohol was photographed and confiscated.
- The Respondent has committed the following violations:
 1. Liquor Board Rule 4.01(A) – Records;
 2. Liquor Board Rule 4.04 – Compliance with Laws and Regulations;
 3. Liquor Board Rule 5.08 – Acts Contrary to Law; and
 4. Liquor Board Rule 5.11(A) – Relation with Wholesalers.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Agent Mike Sofelkanik, agent and inspector of the Maryland Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis Commission (ATCC), was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Agent Sofelkanik testified that he has been employed by ATCC for 2 years and that his duties include licensing inspections and inventory invoice inspections of establishments that sell alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis. Agent Sofelkanik stated that he has completed field training and that he is up to date on his requirements. Agent Sofelkanik stated that he conducted a routine inspection at Lisbon Liquors with Agent Supervisor David Marple and Detective Mark Baxter on July 17, 2024. Agent Sofelkanik stated that 6 bottles of Bookers Bourbon that he inspected were suspicious because the box top was ripped off, preventing detection of where the liquor was procured. Agent Sofelkanik testified to his incident report and produced a photograph of Bookers Bourbon on a whiskey shelf. Agent Sofelkanik stated that Mr. Lakhvir Chahil was agreeable during the inspection, that Mr. Chahil identified himself as the owner, and that the seized bottles were in an evidence room, pending trial. Agent Sofelkanik stated that he reviewed invoices for tobacco and alcohol, that the business records were disorganized, that there were 85 to 100 boxes of alcohol in the basement. He also testified that several licensed State alcohol distributors distribute Bookers Bourbon. Agent Sofelkanik stated that the majority of the other boxes of alcoholic products had identifying marks, and that without the outside stickers it is impossible to detect where the product originated from. Agent Sofelkanik stated that the receipts entered as an exhibit by Mr. Kodenski were not legible, that one of the invoices was not valid, and that he would not accept these documents as legitimate records. Agent Sofelkanik stated that he has never experienced someone providing a missing invoice post-inspection.

Kavneet Kaur Chahil, licensee, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Ms. Chahil testified that she owns the liquor store and that Lakhvir Chahil is her father. Ms. Chahil stated that she has been a licensee since 2017, that she keeps all purchase records behind the counter, and that they are available for inspection at any time. Ms. Chahil stated that there are 6 to 7 deliveries made by several distributors every day, that the Bookers Bourbon was distributed by Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, and that most of the bottles are stored in the basement. Ms. Chahil stated that Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits does not put labels on its boxes and that they have made mistakes with her orders in the past. Ms. Chahil stated that she ordered 1 bottle of Bookers Bourbon on June 28, 2024, but that the distributor made a mistake and dropped off a box of 6 bottles. Ms. Chahil stated that she was not present when the bottles were dropped off and that now she has 2 employees working at the store during delivery days. Ms. Chahil stated that she works at the business from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. most days, that she has no other employment, and that her father, Lakhvir Chahil, is a licensee at a separate liquor store 15 minutes away in West Friendship. Ms. Chahil stated that she has 3 employees who work full time and that the liquor store is open 7 days a week. Ms. Chahil stated that the hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ms. Chahil stated that she lives with her parents in Woodbine and that she does not know why her father identified himself as the owner. Ms. Chahil stated that her father is never at her liquor store but that he happened to be there on the day of the inspection. Ms. Chahil stated that she was not at the liquor store during the initial and subsequent inspection, that she keeps 2 different stacks of invoices at the business, and that she neglected to tell her father about the second stack, which included the invoice for Bookers Bourbon.

The following exhibits were entered into the record:

County Exhibits:

1. *ATCC Incident Report – July 23, 2024*
2. *Photograph of Bookers Bourbon on a Whiskey Shelf*

Licensee Exhibits:

1. *Invoices and Receipts for Lisbon Liquors*

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 Kavneet Kaur Chahil is a Licensee on behalf of New Lisbon Liquors, LLC t/a Lisbon Liquors (“Lisbon Liquors”), for a Class A Beer, Wine and Liquor 7-day off-sale License located at 16109 Frederick Road, Woodbine, MD 21797.

2. Detective Mark Baxter, Petitioner, at the time of the Petition, was a sworn Howard County Police Officer, specially assigned and designated, pursuant to the applicable laws, as the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector for Howard County. In this capacity he has the obligation, duty and responsibility to investigate any licenses liquor establishment for any violations of the applicable liquor or other laws which may occur in the licensed establishment.

3. Howard County, Maryland is a chartered county, organized pursuant to law, and the authority, through the exercise of its police power, to enforce all of the laws relating to alcoholic beverages.

4. On or before May 1, 2024, Respondent applied for and received a Class A Beer, Wine and Liquor 7-day off-sale License for New Lisbon Liquors, LLC t/a Lisbon Liquors, 16109 Frederick Road, Woodbine, MD 21797. Lisbon Liquors is located in Howard County and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of License Commissioners for Howard County.

5. At all times relevant to these proceedings, Respondent was responsible for the

operation of Lisbon Liquors and was responsible for ensuring compliance with all local and State laws concerning the distribution, sale, and transfer of alcoholic beverages to members of the public.

6. On July 29, 2024, Detective Mark Baxter received notice of an incident report filed by agent Mike Sofelkanik from the State of Maryland Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis Commission (ATCC), regarding a violation of the Maryland Alcohol Beverage Article.

7. The report stated that on July 17, 2024, Agent Sofelkanik entered Lisbon Liquors to conduct a routine alcohol inspection.

8. Upon entering the store, Agent Sofelkanik spoke with Mr. Lakhvir Chahil, who stated that he is the owner of the establishment and informed him of the reason for the visit.

9. A thorough comparison of all alcohol and records was conducted and six 1.7 liter bottles of Bookers Bourbon were found, for which there were no purchase records.

10. Mr. Chahil advised that the alcohol had been delivered by mistake, and that he had no purchase records for the six bottles of Bookers Bourbon.

11. Mr. Chahil was advised that this was a violation of the Maryland Alcohol Beverage Law, and that the bottles would be seized, and that a copy of Agent Sofelkanik's report will be given to the Howard County Liquor Board for further action. The alcohol was photographed and confiscated.

12. The Respondent has committed the following violations:

- a. Liquor Board Rule 4.01(A) – Records;
- b. Liquor Board Rule 4.04 – Compliance with Laws and Regulations;
- c. Liquor Board Rule 5.08 – Acts Contrary to Law; and

d. Liquor Board Rule 5.11(A) – Relation with Wholesalers.

13. The Hearing Board finds that it is necessary to impose a one-day suspension, a fine of Two Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$2,000) and a fee of Two Hundred Seventy and 00/100 Dollars (\$270) for the cost of the hearing as provide by Rule 7.05(B).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Hearing Board concludes that Kavneet Kaur Chahil is a Licensee on behalf of New Lisbon Liquors, LLC t/a Lisbon Liquors (“Lisbon Liquors”), for a Class A Beer, Wine and Liquor 7-day off-sale License located at 16109 Frederick Road, Woodbine, MD 21797.

2. The Hearing Board concludes that the Respondent has committed the following violations:

- a. Liquor Board Rule 4.01(A) – Records;
- b. Liquor Board Rule 4.04 – Compliance with Laws and Regulations;
- c. Liquor Board Rule 5.08 – Acts Contrary to Law; and
- d. Liquor Board Rule 5.11(A) – Relation with Wholesalers.

3. The Hearing Board concludes that it is necessary to impose a one-day suspension, a fine of Two Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$2,000) and a fee of Two Hundred Seventy and 00/100 Dollars (\$270) for the cost of the hearing as provide by Rule 7.05(B).

ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, and upon finding a violation of Liquor Board Rules 4.01(A), 4.04, 5.08, and 5.11(A), it is this 27thday of August, 2025, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED:**

1. That the Class A Beer, Wine and Liquor 7-day off-sale License held by Kavneet Kaur Chahil (the “Licensee” or “Respondent”), on behalf of New Lisbon Liquors, LLC t/a Lisbon

Liquors ("Lisbon Liquors"), located at 16109 Frederick Road, Woodbine, MD 21797, be and hereby is **SUSPENDED beginning at 6 a.m. on Saturday, August 30, 2025 through 2 a.m. on Sunday, August 31, 2025; and**

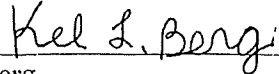
2. That the Licensee shall **DISPLAY the attached SIGN** in color and in a prominent and clear manner, on the front door of the licensed premises beginning at the close of business the day prior to the suspension and continuing until reopening for business the day after the suspension; and

3. That a **FINE of Two Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$2,000) and a fee of Two Hundred Seventy and 00/100 Dollars (\$270) is HEREBY IMPOSED** upon Kavneet Kaur Chahil (the "Licensee" or "Respondent"), on behalf of New Lisbon Liquors, LLC t/a Lisbon Liquors ("Lisbon Liquors"), located at 16109 Frederick Road, Woodbine, MD 21797 and **SHALL BE PAID NO LATER THAN September 30, 2025.**

ANY PERSON AGGRIEVED BY THIS DECISION AND ORDER MAY APPEAL THE DECISION TO THE LIQUOR BOARD WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE DECISION, IN ACCORD WITH RULE 6.14 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY LIQUOR BOARD RULES AND REGULATIONS.

ATTEST:

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND




Kel L. Berg
Board Administrator

/S/
Steven Chen, Chairperson

/S/
Steve Hunt, Vice-Chairperson

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

/S/
Ed Coleman, Member



Hyunjae Shin, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

/S/
Beth Johnson, Member

/S/
Claire Kim, Member