

PETITION TO FINE, SUSPEND, OR	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
REVOKE THE ALCOHOLIC	*	
BEVERAGE LICENSE OF SANDY	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
SPIRITS, INC. T/A SANDY SPIRITS	*	
IN THE NAMES OF JAYENDRA	*	FOR
PATEL AND AMRISH PATEL FOR A	*	
CLASS A BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
7-DAY OFF SALE LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 25-20
	*	

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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 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 Jayendra Patel and Amrish Patel (the “Licensees” or “Respondents”), held on behalf of Sandy Spirits, Inc. t/a Sandy Spirits (“Sandy Spirits”), located at 7250 Montgomery Road, Elkridge, MD 21075.

The hearing was properly advertised, and the property posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Licensees were represented by Mr. Bruce Covahey, Esquire. The Alcoholic Beverage Inspector was represented by Tsega Girma, Esquire.

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

## **STIPULATIONS**

The parties agreed to stipulate to the allegations of the Petition set forth below:

- On July 11, 2024, an underaged female cadet was sent into Sandy Spirits to purchase alcoholic beverages.
- The female cadet was able to purchase a six-pack of White Claw Hard Seltzer (Peach), an alcoholic beverage, from the cashier.
- The cashier, Anjali Patel, conducted the transaction without asking for the cadet's identification, who stated that she did not have her identification with her. The alcohol was sold to the cadet.
- The evidence was captured on Sgt. Travis Turner's body worn camera. The alcoholic beverage purchased by the cadet was returned to the store and the money paid was refunded. Sgt. Travis Turner conducted this compliance check at the subject property.
- The Respondents have committed the following violations:
  1. Liquor Board Rule 4.04 – Compliance with Laws and Regulations;
  2. Liquor Board Rule 5.02 – Sales to Minors; and
  3. Liquor Board Rule 5.08 – Acts Contrary to Law.

## **SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

Mr. Covahey spoke on the licensees behalf and stated that they have held the license since 2021 and that there have been no subsequent violations. Mr. Covahey stated that all employees are Alcohol Awareness Certified and that they have been retrained in alcohol service. Mr. Covahey stated that the licensees now utilize an upgraded scanner at the liquor store, and that all customers are required to have their IDs scanned. Mr. Covahey stated that the licensees take alcohol violations seriously, that the cashier involved in the purchase was in the process of training

someone else, and she became distracted at the time of the incident. Mr. Covahey stated that he believed that the scanning system authenticated licenses, and that the sanctions imposed should take into consideration the changes made by the licensees, to ensure violations do not reoccur.

Amrish Patel, licensee, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Patel testified that the scanner has been in place since 2021, that he upgraded the system after the violations were received in August 2024, and that he did not provide proof of purchase of the scanner to the Liquor Board. Mr. Patel stated that they now pay a yearly fee for the program in order to read the ID for age verification, and that the system alerts them if it is a fake ID. Mr. Patel stated that the scanner was purchased from Sypram Technology, that the employee who sold the alcohol during the incident was not Alcohol Awareness Certified, and that her employment was terminated. Mr. Patel stated that there have been no other previous violations. Mr. Patel stated that he would allow Detective Baxter to evaluate the scanning system and that he would update the system as necessary.

Jayendra Patel, licensee, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Ms. Patel testified that the scanner verifies that the ID is valid and that they upgraded the system.

DFC Mark Baxter was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

DFC Baxter stated that he was familiar with the scanning system technology, that it is commonly used, that the scanning system is only able to calculate age, and that the system cannot check for fake IDs. Detective Baxter stated that he has viewed the Sypram Technology website and that the scanner is a module for a point of sale system.

Sergeant Travis Turner was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Sergeant Turner testified that the employee involved in the incident produced a copy of her

training certificate, and that she completed a safe alcohol service training on June 20, 2024.

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 Jayendra Patel and Amrish Patel are Licensees on behalf of Sandy Spirits, Inc. t/a Sandy Spirits ("Sandy Spirits"), for a Class A Beer, Wine and Liquor 7-day off-sale License located at 7250 Montgomery Road, Elkridge, MD 21075.

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, Respondents applied for and received a Class A Beer, Wine and Liquor 7-day off-sale License for Sandy Spirits, Inc. t/a Sandy Spirits, 7250 Montgomery Road, Elkridge, MD 21075. Sandy Spirits 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, Respondents were responsible for the operation of Sandy Spirits and were 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 11, 2024, an underaged female cadet was sent into Sandy Spirits to purchase alcoholic

beverages.

7. The female cadet was able to purchase a six-pack of White Claw Hard Seltzer (Peach), an alcoholic beverage, from the cashier.

8. The cashier, Anjali Patel, conducted the transaction without asking for the cadet's identification, which would have shown that she was under the age of twenty-one.

9. The evidence was captured on Sgt. Travis Turner's body worn camera. The alcoholic beverage purchased by the cadet was returned to the store and the money paid was refunded. Sgt. Travis Turner conducted this compliance check at the subject property.

10. The Respondents have committed the following violations:

- a. Liquor Board Rule 4.04 – Compliance with Laws and Regulations;
- b. Liquor Board Rule 5.02 – Sales to Minors; and
- c. Liquor Board Rule 5.08 – Acts Contrary to Law.

11. The Hearing Board finds that it is necessary to impose a one day suspension 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 Jayendra Patel and Amrish Patel are Licensees on behalf of Sandy Spirits, Inc. t/a Sandy Spirits ("Sandy Spirits"), for a Class A Beer, Wine and Liquor 7-day off-sale License located at 7250 Montgomery Road, Elkridge, MD 21075.

2. The Hearing Board concludes that the Respondents have committed the following violations:

- a. Liquor Board Rule 4.04 – Compliance with Laws and Regulations;

- b. Liquor Board Rule 5.02 – Sales to Minors: and
- c. Liquor Board Rule 5.08 – Acts Contrary to Law.

3. The Hearing Board concludes that it is necessary to impose a one day suspension 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 4.04, 5.02, and 5.08, it is this 27th day 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 Jayendra Patel and Amrish Patel (the “Licensees” or “Respondents”), on behalf of Sandy Spirits, Inc. t/a Sandy Spirits (“Sandy Spirits”), located at 7250 Montgomery Road, Elkridge, MD 21075, 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**

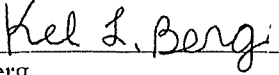
2. That the Licensees shall **DISPLAY the attached SIGN** in color and in a prominent and clear manner, on the front door of the licensed premises beginning at the close of business the day prior to the suspension and continuing until reopening for business the day after the suspension; and

3. That a **FEE of Two Hundred Seventy and 00/100 Dollars (\$270) is HEREBY IMPOSED** upon Jayendra Patel and Amrish Patel (the “Licensees” or “Respondents”), on behalf of Sandy Spirits, Inc. t/a Sandy Spirits (“Sandy Spirits”), located at 7250 Montgomery Road, Elkridge, MD 21075 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