

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF SEVERINE MARY	*	
D'SOUZA AND AARON JOHNSON	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
SOUZA ON BEHALF OF GOLDEN	*	
HUB, LLC T/A ROYAL CUISINE OF	*	FOR
INDIA FOR A NEW CLASS B BEER	*	
WINE AND LIQUOR 7-DAY ON	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
SALE LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 26-16
	*	

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 February 24, 2026, the Hearing Board heard the application of Severine Mary D'Souza and Aaron Johnson Souza (the "Applicants"), on behalf of Golden Hub, LLC t/a Royal Cuisine of India ("Royal Cuisine of India"), for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 1,249 sq. ft. restaurant located at 7500 Montpelier Road, #104, Laurel, MD 20723.

The hearing was properly advertised, and the property posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants were represented by Abraham Hurdle, Esquire and there were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

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

PROFFER

Mr. Hurdle proffered that Ms. D'Souza has been an owner of House of India for the past 14 months with no liquor violations, that alcohol sales are 10% of the gross sales, and that both Applicants have completed alcohol awareness training. Mr. Hurdle stated that the application is accurate, but that an updated police background form still needed to be submitted. Mr. Hurdle stated that the Applicants are familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, that all servers will be Alcohol Awareness Certified, and that everyone who orders alcohol will be carded. Mr. Hurdle stated that the hours of operation are Sundays through Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mr. Hurdle stated that Ms. D'Souza will be at the restaurant whenever it is open and that they plan to retain the current employees.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Aaron Johnson Souza, 90% interest holder and proposed licensee, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Souza testified that he will card everyone who orders alcohol, that he has taken the alcohol awareness course, that he will order alcohol from approved wholesalers, and that he will ensure that all employees are Alcohol Awareness Certified. Mr. Souza stated that he will be involved in community events, and that he will recycle when possible. Mr. Souza stated that he is new to the business, but will learn from his mother, who has been in the restaurant industry for over 20 years. Mr. Souza stated that his mother will handle the inventory and record keeping, and that his role will be serving and managing. Mr. Souza stated that he will work at the restaurant 10 to 20 hours a week and that he holds another job.

Severine Mary D'Souza, 10% interest holder and proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Ms. D'Souza testified that there is one manager who is Alcohol Awareness Certified, and that she and the manager will work 6 days a week with continuous coverage. Ms. D'Souza stated that 80% of alcohol sales will be from beer, 5% of alcohol sales will be from wine, and that a small percentage of sales will be from cocktails.

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Chen requested that the hearing for this case be postponed until a new application package is submitted, due to sloppiness, inconsistencies and incomplete documents. The Applicants agreed to the request. By a unanimous vote, the Hearing Board agreed to postpone this case to a date to be determined.

Summary of June 23, 2026 Hearing

A new application was submitted, requesting a New Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale License. The Applicants were represented by Melvin Kodenski, Esquire and there were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

PROFFER

Mr. Kodenski proffered that the application was originally for a transfer, but because the liquor license was not renewed and had expired, the application was resubmitted to request a new liquor license. Mr. Kodenski stated that the Applicants have many years of restaurant experience, that they have previously held liquor licenses in Howard County and Montgomery County, and that they are familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Severine Mary D'Souza, 10% interest holder and proposed licensee, was sworn in and

testified before the Hearing Board.

Ms. D'Souza stated that she has been in the restaurant industry for 25 years, that she has previously held liquor licenses, and that she started in the industry working at a restaurant in Washington D.C. from 2002 to 2012 as a bartender and a server. Ms. D'Souza stated that she previously owned Khushbu Indian Cuisine in Montgomery County from 2016 to 2018, that she had no issues while there, and that the business closed. Ms. D'Souza stated that her business at House of India in Howard County has been operating since 2024 and that, if approved, Royal Cuisine of India will be her third business with a liquor license. Ms. D'Souza stated that she has lost customers because she does not have a liquor license, and that alcohol sales will be 49% of the total gross sales. Ms. D'Souza stated that she has never had any alcohol violations, that she is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, and that she understands her role as the resident agent. Ms. D'Souza stated that she works 50 hours a week at the restaurant and that her son and manager will be on-site when she is not present. Ms. D'Souza stated that she plans to sell beer, wine and cocktails. Ms. D'Souza stated that she has a full-time manager who is Alcohol Awareness Certified, and that her son will work on weekends.

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 Severine Mary D'Souza and Aaron Johnson Souza (the "Applicants"), on behalf of Golden Hub, LLC t/a Royal Cuisine of India ("Royal Cuisine of India"), have applied for a new of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a

1,249 sq. ft. restaurant located at 7500 Montpelier Road, #104, Laurel, MD 20723.

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 Severine Mary D'Souza, 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 Severine Mary D'Souza and Aaron Johnson Souza (the "Applicants"), on behalf of Golden Hub, LLC t/a Royal Cuisine of India ("Royal Cuisine of India"), have applied for a new of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 1,249 sq. ft. restaurant located at 7500 Montpelier Road, #104, Laurel, MD 20723.

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 Severine Mary D'Souza, 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.

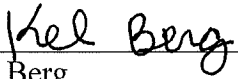
ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 6th day of July, 2026, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Severine Mary D'Souza and Aaron Johnson Souza (the "Applicants"), on behalf of Golden Hub, LLC t/a Royal Cuisine of India ("Royal Cuisine of India"), for a new of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 1,249 sq. ft. restaurant located at 7500 Montpelier Road, #104, Laurel, MD 20723, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicants comply with all State and County laws and regulations;
- (b) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by December 23, 2026 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 Berg
Board Administrator

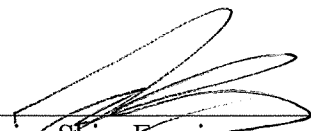
_____/S/_____
Steven Chen, Chairperson

_____/S/_____
Steve Hunt, Vice-Chairperson

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

_____/S/_____
Ed Coleman, Member

_____/ABSENT_____
Beth Johnson, Member



Hyunjae Shin, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

_____/S/_____
Claire Kim, Member