

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF JAYENDRA	*	
PATEL AND AMRISH PATEL	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
ON BEHALF OF SANDY SPIRITS INC.,	*	
T/A SANDY SPIRITS FOR A	*	FOR
TRANSFER OF A CLASS A, BEER, WINE,	*	
AND LIQUOR 7-DAY OFF SALE	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 21-47

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 14, 2021, the Hearing Board heard the application of Jayendra Patel and Amrish Patel (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Sandy Spirits, Inc., t/a Sandy Spirits, for a transfer of a Class A, Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day Off Sale License for 5,600 sq. ft. package store located at 7520 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 Applicants were represented by Frank Boozer, Esquire.

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

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Amrish Patel, 90% owner of Sandy Spirits and applicant for the liquor license, was sworn in and testified before the Board.

Mr. Patel testified that the information in regard to his background was true and correct. Mr. Patel stated he ran a liquor store in Newark, Delaware without any violations and most recently operated Trout Liquors without any violations. Mr. Patel stated he currently lives in Newark but will move and work at the store full time with his sister-in-law. Mr. Patel stated he has a new computer system for age verification that scans any United States identification. Mr. Patel stated that unless a valid identification with a person of legal drinking age was scanned, the payment system will not operate. Mr. Patel testified he has a recyclable container and has contracted with Waste Management. Mr. Patel stated he will spend ten to twelve hours a day at the store and he currently has thirteen employees that he intends to keep from the previous owner. Mr. Patel testified that he is Techniques of Alcohol Management ("TAM") certified and has read the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations of Howard County and is familiar with them from his ownership of Trout Liquors.

Mr. Patel testified there is only one Trout Liquors store. Mr. Patel stated he used to partner with his brother-in-law at Trout Liquors and has sold his financial interest there and will buy Sandy Spirits (formerly Cindy's Skylight Liquors). Mr. Patel stated his percentage interest at Trout Liquors was 50%, which he sold. Mr. Patel, again confirmed through testimony, that he no longer has a financial interest in Trout Liquors.

Mr. Patel testified he left Trout Liquors at the end of September and went back to Delaware. Mr. Patel stated that for the past three weeks he has been at Cindy's Liquors to learn their operation. Mr. Patel testified that he has spent approximately 8 hours a day at Cindy's Liquors four to five days a week. Mr. Patel testified Cindy's Liquors is located in more of a city area than Trout Liquors. Mr. Patel testified that Trout Liquors is in Frederick County.

Jayendra Patel, the proposed resident agent and 10% owner of Sandy Spirits was sworn

in and testified before the Board.

Ms. Patel testified that the information given so far was true and correct. Ms. Patel stated that Amrish Patel is her brother-in-law. Ms. Patel testified that Mr. Patel used to own a store with her husband. Ms. Patel stated is the 10% owner and that it takes her five to seven minutes to walk to the store from her residence. Ms. Patel stated she worked at Cindy's Skylight Liquors two to three times a week but has worked at Trout Liquors since March. Ms. Patel testified she plans to have Mr. Patel move in with her once they have ownership. Ms. Patel stated she has helped her husband at Trout Liquors since the purchase in April 2021 and she feels like she understands the business. Ms. Patel stated that she understands the rules in Howard County are different from Frederick County regarding the sales of alcoholic beverages. Ms. Patel stated that if the license is granted, she will work at the store at least forty hours a week, and more if needed. Ms. Patel stated she will devote one hundred percent of her time to Sandy Spirits.

Ms. Patel testified the correct address of her residence to be 7230 Montgomery Road, Apartment 3B and that her husband is the 100% shareholder of Trout Liquors. Ms. Patel currently has no financial interest in Trout Liquors and will have a 10% interest in Sandy Spirits.

Ms. Patel testified that Sandy Spirits has more product to offer than Trout Liquors and that she expects the larger product selection to continue. Ms. Patel stated she expects her role at Sandy's Spirits to be in management. Ms. Patel stated she will eventually learn how to order liquor and will follow the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations of Howard County.

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 Jayendra Patel and Amrish Patel, on behalf of Sandy Spirits, Inc., t/a Sandy Spirits have applied for a transfer of a Class A, Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day Off Sale License for 5,600 sq. ft. package store located at 7520 Montgomery Road, Elkridge, MD 21075.
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 Ms. Patel, 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 Jayendra Patel and Amrish Patel, on behalf of Sandy Spirits, Inc., t/a Sandy Spirits have applied for a transfer of a Class A, Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day Off Sale License for 5,600 sq. ft. package store located at 7520 Montgomery Road, Elkridge, MD 21075.
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 Ms. Patel, 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.

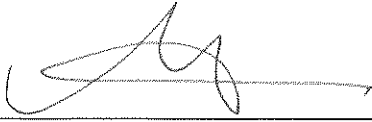
ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 8th day of April, 2022, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Jayendra Patel and Amrish Patel on behalf of Sandy Spirits, Inc., t/a Sandy Spirits for a transfer of a Class A, Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day Off Sale License for 5,600 sq. ft. package store located at 7520 Montgomery Road, Elkridge, MD 21075, 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 June 14, 2022 unless that deadline is extended by the 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**



Ashley Aguilar
Board Administrator

Kel L. Berg for
Mary Bird, Chairperson

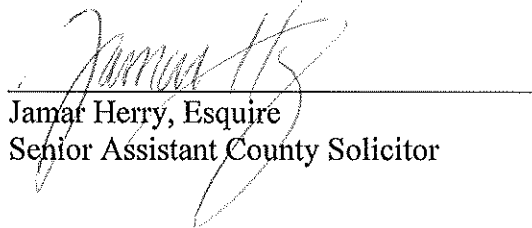
ABSENT

Harry Evans, Vice-Chairperson

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

Kel L. Berg for
Charley Sung, Member

Kel L. Berg for
Steve Chen, Member



Jamar Herry, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

Kel L. Berg for
Claire Kim, Member