

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF MITESH	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
THAKORBHAI PATEL AND	*	OF
BHARATKUMAR PATEL ON BEHALF	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
OF SWAMIT, LLC T/A SNOWDEN	*	
RIVER LIQUORS FOR A TRANSFER	*	
OF A CLASS A-1 BEER, WINE &	*	Case No.: 20-15
LIQUOR 7-DAY OFF SALE LICENSE	*	
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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 May 12, 2020, using WebEx, a web-based on-line platform, the Hearing Board heard the application of Mitesh Thakorbbhai Patel and Bharatkumar Patel (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Swamit LLC t/a Snowden River Liquors (“Snowden River Liquors”) for a transfer of a Class A-1, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day off-sale license from Soosoon, Inc. t/a Snowden River Liquors in the names of Brace Jungwoo Lee and Hyo Soon Wang for a 3,000 square foot package goods store located at 9350-A Snowden River Parkway, Columbia, MD 21045.

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

As a preliminary matter, Katherine Taylor requested that the Board also issue a Tasting License to the applicants and agreed to submit the required application to the Liquor Board office.

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

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Mitesh Thakorbbhai Patel, proposed licensee and 55% owner of the LLC, was sworn and testified that he is from India and now lives in Howard County. Mr. Patel stated he has previous experience working in other package good stores, including Star Liquors and Camelot Liquors, and that there were no violations while he worked at these locations. Mr. Patel testified that he currently works full-time at Star Liquors and that his duties included attending to customers, ordering inventory, bookkeeping, and acting as manager when the owner is not present. Mr. Patel testified that he is applying for this transfer request as he wants to own his own liquor store, and this is a good opportunity to work and live in Howard County.

Mr. Patel testified that he plans to manage Snowden River Liquors and his duties will include hiring and firing, bookkeeping, ordering inventory, and training staff. He stated that he plans to retain the current staff which consist of two full-time and two part-time employees and plans to keep similar inventory as currently stocked in the store.

Mr. Patel testified that all current employees are alcohol awareness certified and he will make sure that anyone who is hired takes the alcoholic awareness course. Mr. Patel stated that this store is a high-traffic location, and that he will work at the store six days a week, 10-12 hours per day. Mr. Patel will keep the same hours at the store - Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Mr. Patel testified that anyone appearing to be under the age of 40 years old will be required to provide identification and he plans to use an electronic scanning machine, which is currently in place. Mr. Patel testified that he plans to train the employees on how to properly sell alcohol and will have a written policy that the employees will be required to sign before they start employment.

Mr. Patel testified that he will inform the employees that there will be consequences if they violate the policies.

Mr. Patel testified that he is familiar with Liquor Inspector Mark Baxter, and if Detective Baxter comes into the store to ask questions, he will be more than happy to cooperate and assist him.

Mr. Patel testified that he has read the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations 5-6 times and understands them and will comply and uphold these rules and regulations.

Bharatkumar Patel, proposed licensee and 45% owner of the LLC, was sworn and testified that he has no experience in the liquor business; however, he has experience with financial records and currently works full-time for an electric company. Mr. Patel testified that his role will be to support Mr. Mitesh Patel in this business and will operate the store when Mitesh takes off one day a week. Bharatkumar Patel testified that although he works full-time at his current job, he will be available as necessary in the evenings and will also make himself available at other times if requested by Mitesh Patel.

Mr. Patel testified that he met the current employees and there are no plans to replace them and that the inventory will remain the same; however, changes to inventory will be made as needed. Mr. Patel stated that anyone appearing to be under the age of 40 years old will be required to show identification when purchasing alcohol. Mr. Patel stated that he is alcohol awareness certified and that all new employees will be certified as well. Mr. Patel testified that he has read and is familiar with the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, has reviewed the section on what practices are prohibited, and agrees to cooperate with the police department and any investigation by Detective Baxter. Mr. Patel testified that he believes the operation of this store will not disturb the surrounding neighborhood and the location of this store is in a commercial area.

The following exhibits were offered by Katherine Taylor and accepted into the record by the Board:

1. Aerial photograph of Snowden River Liquors
2. Aerial photograph showing store and surrounding neighborhood
3. Alcoholic Beverages Sales Policy and Procedures for MD Licensees
4. Liquor Permit from State of Connecticut for Ronak R. Patel

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 Mitesh Thakor'bhair Patel and Bharatkumar Patel, on behalf of Swamit LLC t/a Snowden River Liquors, have applied for a transfer of a Class A-1, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day off-sale license from Soosoon, Inc. t/a Snowden River Liquors in the names of Brace Jungwoo Lee and Hyo Soon Wang for a 3,000 square foot package goods store located at 9350-A Snowden River Parkway, Columbia, MD 21045.
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 the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.
4. 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 Mitesh Thakorbbhai Patel and Bharatkumar Patel, on behalf of Swamit LLC t/a Snowden River Liquors, have applied for a transfer of a Class A-1, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day off-sale license from Soosoon, Inc. t/a Snowden River Liquors in the names of Brace Jungwoo Lee and Hyo Soon Wang for a 3,000 square foot package goods store located at 9350-A Snowden River Parkway, Columbia, MD 21045.

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 the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.

4. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of the application would not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the neighborhood.

ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 24th day of June, 2020, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Mitesh Thakorbbhai Patel and Bharatkumar Patel, on behalf of Swamit LLC t/a Snowden River Liquors, for a transfer of a Class A-1, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day off-sale license from Soosoon, Inc. t/a Snowden River Liquors in the names of Brace Jungwoo Lee and Hyo Soon Wang for a 3,000 square foot package goods store located at 9350-A Snowden River Parkway, Columbia, MD 21045, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:


- (a) That the Applicants comply with all State and County Rules and Regulations; and
- (b) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license

by September 30, 2020, 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:

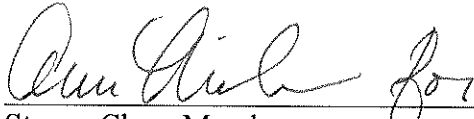
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

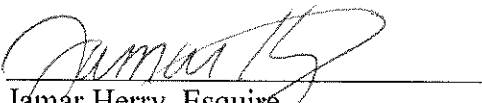

Robin Regner
Board Administrator

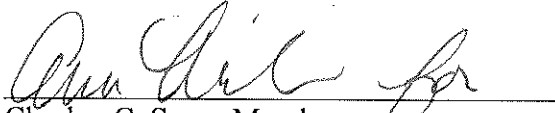

Mary Bird, Chairperson

NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF
Harry Evans, Vice Chairperson SIGNING

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


Steven Chen, Member


Jamar Herry, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor


Charley C. Sung, Member