

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF JIGAR ASHOK	*	
PATEL ON BEHALF OF MADI KRUPA,	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
INC., t/a LARK BROWN LIQUORS, FOR	*	
A TRANSFER OF A CLASS A-1 BEER,	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
WINE, AND LIQUOR FOR A 7-DAY	*	
OFF-SALE LICENSE	*	Case No. 15-42
	*	

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 September 1, 2015, the Hearing Board heard the application of Jigar Ashok Patel ("Applicant"), on behalf of Madi Krupa, Inc., t/a Lark Brown Liquors ("Madi Krupa, Inc."), for a transfer of the Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day Off-Sale License currently held by Michael Hitt and Chanchal Singh Dhandal on behalf of Maha Kali, Inc. t/a Lark Brown Liquors, for a 1,850 square foot package goods store located at 6590-B Old Waterloo Road, Elkridge, Maryland 21075. The hearing was properly advertised pursuant to Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicant was represented by Thomas M. Meachum, Esquire. There were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

All the documents on file were incorporated into the record by reference. These include the following: a letter dated May 6, 2015, from the attorney for the Applicant submitting the application; a copy of the background questionnaire for the Applicant; a copy of the driving record of the Applicant from the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration; a copy of the

Certificate of Naturalization for the Applicant; a copy of the Corporate Charter Approval Sheet for Madi Krupa, Inc.; a copy of the Articles of Incorporation of Madi Krupa, Inc.; a memorandum dated July 31, 2015, from the Liquor Board to the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector, the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits, the Bureau of Environmental, the Department of Planning and Zoning, and the Fire Marshal; the background investigation of the applicant by the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector dated August 27, 2015; a memorandum dated August 11, 2015, from the Department of Planning and Zoning; a letter dated August 7, 2015, from the Office of the Fire Marshal; a letter dated July 31, 2015, to the Department of Finance; a letter dated August 4, 2015, from the Department of Finance; a letter dated July 31, 2015, from the Comptroller of Maryland; a letter dated August 6, 2015; a fax transmission to the Applicants' attorney enclosing a letter dated July 31, 2015, with notification of the hearing date and the necessity to advertise; the certification of advertisement from the Howard County Times and the Baltimore Sun; and an email dated August 13, 2015 from the Alcoholic Beverage Inspector stating the premises had been posted.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Jigar Ashok Patel, President/Treasurer/Secretary and 35% shareholder of Madi Krupa, Inc., t/a Lark Brown Liquors, was sworn and testified that he has lived in Howard County for ten years, is a registered voter, and is alcohol awareness certified. Mr. Patel testified that he has five years of experience as a manager of a liquor store, where he was in charge of operations. Mr. Patel testified that if approved, he will manage the liquor store, and will be there every day for eight or nine hours per day.

Mr. Patel testified that he plans to hire another employee who will work during busy times. Mr. Patel testified that the employee will also be alcohol awareness certified.

Mr. Patel testified that he chose the store because it is a good size, and it serves the community. Mr. Patel testified that the license has been in existence for at least 20 years. Mr. Patel testified that he plans to increase the beer and wine selection at the store. Mr. Patel testified that he will offer lottery ticket sales, but will not sell singles, or provide a check cashing service.

Mr. Patel testified that he will comply with the Office of the Fire Marshal.

Mr. Patel testified that he attached his Maryland driving record to his background questionnaire, and that he has never been charged with either DUI or DWI.

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicant waived his right to request the Liquor Board to hear the case.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Hearing Board finds that Jigar Ashok Patel on behalf of Madi Krupa, Inc., t/a Lark Brown Liquors, has applied for a transfer of the Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day Off-Sale License held by Michael Hitt and Chanchal Singh Dhandal on behalf of Maha Kali, Inc., t/a Lark Brown Liquors, for a 1,850 square foot package goods store located at 6590-B Old Waterloo Road, Elkridge, Maryland 21075.
2. The Hearing Board finds that the Applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an alcoholic beverage license.
3. The Hearing Board finds that Jigar Ashok Patel has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and a 35% shareholder of Madi Krupa, Inc., t/a Lark Brown Liquors.
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 this application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents in the neighborhood.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Hearing Board concludes that Jigar Ashok Patel on behalf of Madi Krupa, Inc., t/a Lark Brown Liquors, has applied for a transfer of the Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day Off-Sale License held by Michael Hitt and Chanchal Singh Dhandal on behalf of Maha Kali, Inc., t/a Lark Brown Liquors, for a 1,850 square foot package goods store located at 6590-B Old Waterloo Road, Elkridge, Maryland 21075.

2. The Hearing Board concludes that the Applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board concludes that Jigar Ashok Patel meets the requirements of Rules 1.09(T), 1.09(U), 2.06, and 2.10 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 in the neighborhood.

ORDER

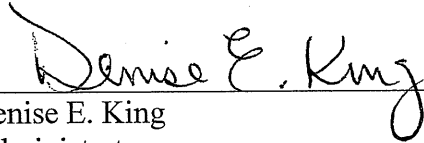
For the foregoing reasons, it is this 3rd day of October, 2015, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, Maryland **ORDERED** that the application of Jigar Ashok Patel on behalf of Madi Krupa, Inc., t/a Lark Brown Liquors, for a transfer of the Class A-1 Beer, Wine, and Liquor 7-Day Off-Sale License held by Michael Hitt and Chanchal Singh Dhandal on behalf of Maha Kali, Inc., t/a Lark Brown Liquors, for a 1,850

square foot package goods store located at 6590-B Old Waterloo Road, ElkrIDGE, Maryland 21075, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED** subject to the following conditions:


1. That this **PROPOSED DECISION AND ORDER** shall become final when the Applicant obtains the license and complies with the following conditions:
 - (a) That the Applicant complies with all State and County rules and regulations; and
 - (b) Failure to comply with these conditions and obtain the license by November 30, 2015, shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND



Denise E. King
Administrator



Mary Bird, Chairperson

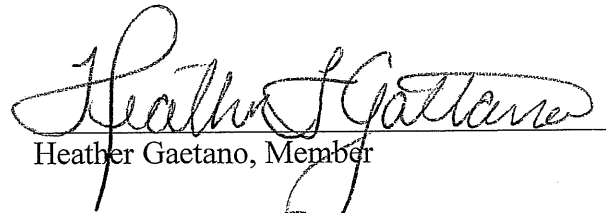


Harry Evans, III, Vice-Chairperson

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




Charles C. Feaga, Member



Heather Gaetano, Member



Lewis Taylor, Esquire
Assistant County Solicitor



Charley C. Sung, Member