

Chairman

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission 95 Fourth Street, Suite 3 Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150-2358

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION

February 25, 2025

NILKANTH ASSOCIATES LLP D/B/A COUNTRY CROSSROADS 6 UNIVERSITY DRIVE, SUITE 5 AMHERST, MA 01002

LICENSE#: 90519-PK-0024 VIOLATION DATE: 9/26/2024

HEARD: 1/28/2025

After a hearing on January 28, 2025, the Commission finds Nilkanth Associates LLP d/b/a Country Crossroads violated 204 CMR 2.05 (2) Permitting an illegality on the licensed premises, to wit: M.G.L. Ch. 138, § 34 Sale or Delivery of an alcoholic beverage to a person under twenty-one years of age (2 counts). The Commission suspends the license for a period of two (2) days to be served.

The suspension shall commence on Monday, April 7, 2025, and terminate on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. The license will be delivered to the Local Licensing Board or its designee on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. It will be returned to the licensee on April 9, 2025.

You are advised that pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c.138 § 23, you may petition the Commission to accept an offer in compromise in lieu of suspension within twenty (20) calendar days following such notice of such suspension. If accepted, you may pay a fine using the enclosed form which must be signed by the Licensee and a Massachusetts Licensed Accountant.

You are advised that you have the right to appeal this decision under M.G.L. c. 30A to Superior Court within thirty (30) days upon receipt of this notice.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION

Jean M. Lorizio

Chairman

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2024-000210-ad-enf

cc: Local Licensing Board
Frederick G. Mahony, Chief Investigator
Katherine McCormick, Esq., Associate General Counsel
Joseph Di Cicco, Investigator
Sean Fleming, Investigator
Sean Smiddy, Investigator
Administration, File



Chairman

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission 95 Fourth Street, Suite 3 Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150-2358

DECISION

NILKANTH ASSOCIATES LLP D/B/A COUNTRY CROSSROADS 6 UNIVERSITY DRIVE, SUITE 5 AMHERST, MA 01002 LICENSE#: 90519-PK-0024

VIOLATION DATE: 9/26/2024

HEARD: 1/28/2025

Nilkanth Associates LLP d/b/a Country Crossroads (the "Licensee") holds an alcohol license issued pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138, § 15. The Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission ("ABCC" or "Commission") held a hearing on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, regarding an alleged violation of 204 CMR 2.05 (2) Permitting an illegality on the licensed premises, to wit: M.G.L. Ch. 138, § 34 Sale or Delivery of an alcoholic beverage to a person under twenty-one years of age (2 counts). Prior to the commencement of the hearing the Licensee stipulated to the facts alleged in Investigator Di Cicco's Report.

The following documents are in evidence:

- 1. Investigative Report of J. DiCicco;
- 2. ABCC Licensing Authority Certification, New License Approved 5/12/2023:
- 3. Licensee's Stipulation of Facts.

There is one (1) audio recording of this hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On Thursday, September 26, 2024, Investigators Fleming, Smiddy, and Di Cicco ("Investigators") inspected the business operation of Nilkanth Associates LLP d/b/a Country Crossroads ("Licensee" or "Country Crossroads").
- 2. At approximately 4:30 p.m. while outside the licensed premises, Investigators observed a black Jeep containing four youthful appearing individuals enter the parking lot of the licensed premises. Investigators observed one youthful appearing individual exit the vehicle and enter the establishment. Shortly thereafter, the youthful appearing individual exited the licensed premises with a shopping carriage of alcoholic beverages which he delivered to the Jeep. The youthful appearing individual then re-entered the establishment and exited with another shopping carriage of alcoholic beverages. The 2 carriages of

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alcoholic beverages contained: 12 bottles (1.75 liter) of Truly vodka; two 30-packs of Busch Light Peach beer; two 30-packs of Busch Light beer; one 6-pack of Mike's Hard Lemonade; two 10-packs of Dr. McGillicuddy's Cherry 50-ml bottles, and one 1.75 liter bottle of vodka.

- 3. Investigators approached, identified themselves and asked to see proof of legal age to purchase and/or possess alcoholic beverages.
- 4. Underage #1, actual date of birth 5/11/2006 (age 18), provided to Investigators a Connecticut driver's license which he stated belonged to a family member.
- 5. Investigators then observed another vehicle occupied by four youthful appearing female individuals. Investigators observed two of the females enter the licensed premises and shortly thereafter exit in possession of alcoholic beverages: three 10-packs of Dr. McGillicuddy's Mentholmint, 50 ml bottles; one 6-pack Long Drink Citrus; one 4-pack of High Noon; one 12-pack of White Claw Hard Seltzer; and one 6-pack of Long Drink Peach.
- 6. Investigators identified themselves and requested proof of legal age to purchase and/or possess alcoholic beverages.
- 7. Underage #2, actual date of birth 12/11/2004 (age 19), stated to Investigators that she was not asked for identification to purchase the alcoholic beverages.
- 8. Investigators informed the manager of the violations and that a report would be submitted to the Chief Investigator for review.
- 9. Akshar Patel, Licensee, appeared at the Commission hearing and thanked the Investigators. He stated that having the Investigators in the area deters underage individuals from attempting to purchase alcoholic beverages. He also stated the Investigators have made him more aware of his surroundings in Amherst. Additionally, Mr. Patel realized his identification scanner was not working efficiently and corrected that problem. He now asks more questions of patrons and has learned better ways of evaluating identifications.
- 10. The Licensee has held a license under M.G.L. c. 138, § 15 since 2023 with no prior violations.

CONCLUSION

Based on the evidence, the Commission finds the Licensee violated 204 CMR 2.05 (2) Permitting an illegality on the licensed premises, to wit: M.G.L. Ch. 138, § 34 Sale or Delivery of an alcoholic beverage to a person under twenty-one years of age (2 counts). Therefore, the Commission suspends the license for a period of three (3) days of which two (2) days will be served and one (1) day will be held in abeyance for a period of two (2) years provided no further violations of Chapter 138 or Commission Regulations are found by this Commission.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION

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Crystal Matthews, Commissioner

Deborah Baglio, Commissioner

Dated: February 25, 2025

You have the right to appeal this decision to the Superior Courts under the provisions of Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws within thirty (30) days of receipt of this decision.

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