

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

Jean M. Lorizio, Esq. Chairman

DECISION

RJ INC. D/B/A HUDSON WINE & SPIRITS 103-105 MAIN STREET HUDSON, MA 01749 LICENSE#: 89507-PK-0548 VIOLATION DATE: 5/02/2023 HEARD: 10/10/2023

RJ Inc. d/b/a Hudson Wine & Spirits ("Licensee") holds an alcohol license issued pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138, § 15. The Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission ("ABCC" or "Commission") held a remote hearing via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 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. Prior to the commencement of the hearing the Licensee stipulated to the facts alleged in Investigators Quinn and Keefe's Minimum Purchase Age Compliance Check Field Report.

The following documents are in evidence:

- Investigators Quinn and Keefe's Minimum Purchase Age Compliance Check Field Report, 5/2/2023;
- 2. ABCC Transfer of License Approval Cover Sheet, 3/8/2019;
- 3. Licensee's Stipulation of Facts.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at approximately 5:48 p.m., Investigators Quinn and Keefe ("Investigators") conducted a compliance check at RJ Inc. d/b/a Hudson Wine & Spirits.
- An underage operative, working under the supervision of Investigators, purchased an alcoholic beverage, one 12-ounce can of Bud Light beer, for three dollars and eighty cents (\$3.80). The underage operative was not asked for identification.
- 3. Nikhal Patel, Licensee and Manager of Record, appeared at the Commission hearing. Mr. Patel testified he had signs posted regarding patrons being required to present identification and acknowledged his employee used poor judgment in failing to request identification from the underage operative. Mr. Patel has installed a new point-of-sale system which requires employees to input a customer's date of birth prior to making a sale.

4. The Licensee has held a license under M.G.L. c. 138, § 15 since 2019 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. As a result, the Commission issues a **WARNING.**

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION

Deboran Q Bag Deborah A. Baglio, Commissioner Curl Crystal Matthews, Commissioner _ I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I have reviewed the hearing record. Jean M. Lorizio, Chairman Dated: November 3, 2023

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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2023-000119-ad-enf

cc: Local Licensing Board Frederick G. Mahony, Chief Investigator Kyle E. Gill, Esq., Associate General Counsel Dennis Keefe, Investigator Katelyn Quinn, Investigator Administration, File