

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

Jean M. Lorizio, Esq. Chairman

DECISION

MEZZE INC. D/B/A MEZZE BISTRO & BAR 777 COLD SPRING ROAD WILLIAMSTOWN, MA 01267 LICENSE#: 00055-RS-1478

VIOLATION DATE: 6/22/2022

HEARD: 10/18/2022

Mezze Inc. d/b/a Mezze Bistro & Bar ("Licensee") holds an alcohol license issued pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138, § 12. The Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission ("ABCC" or "Commission") held a remote hearing via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 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 Investigator Kujawski's Report.

The following documents are in evidence:

- 1. Investigator Kujawski's Minimum Purchase Age Compliance Check Field Report;
- 2. ABCC Form 43, License Transfer Approval, 4/16/2002:
- 3. ABCC Decision, 6/5/2008;
- 4. Licensee's Stipulation of Facts.
- A. Licensee's Job Description for Servers/Bartenders:
- B. Photographs of Kitchen at the Licensed Premises.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at approximately 7:00 p.m., Investigators Gould and Kujawski ("Investigators") inspected the business operation of Mezze Inc. d/b/a Mezze Bistro & Bar.
- 2. An underage operative, working under the supervision of Investigators, purchased an alcoholic beverage, one Berkshire Ale for six dollars and forty-two cents (\$6.42). The underage operative was not asked for identification.

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- 3. Nancy Thomas, Manager of Record, Maddy Markland, Front House Manager, and April Albano, Bartender, appeared at the Commission hearing. Nancy Thomas testified she oversees the licensed premises and spoke to the seriousness of the matter and her efforts towards training staff. Maddie Markland testified she immediately met with employees and continues to meet daily with employees to discuss the importance of checking identification and to go over what constitutes a valid identification. April Albano testified as to the training employees have gone through since the compliance check.
- 4. The Licensee has posted inside the kitchen a sign showing the date by which a person must have been born to make them twenty-one years of age. The sign is positioned so that employees see it each time they exit the kitchen.

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. Therefore, the Commission issues a **WARNING.**

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION

Crystal Matthews, Commissioner Cycl Matthe
Deborah A. Baglio, Commissioner Deborat Q Baglio
I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I have reviewed the hearing record and concur with the above decision.
Jean M. Lorizio, Chairman Jum M. Louyw
Dated: November 3, 2022

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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2022-000136-ad-enf

cc: Local Licensing Board
Frederick G. Mahony, Chief Investigator
Kyle E. Gill, Esq., Associate General Counsel
Jan Kujawski, Investigator
Brian Gould, Investigator
Stanley E. Parese, Esq.
Administration, File