

Chairman

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

DECISION

JAY BRAHMANI MATAJI CORP. D/B/A STAFFORD DISCOUNT LIQUORS 191 STAFFORD STREET

WORCESTER, MA 01603 LICENSE #: 00259-PK-1508 VIOLATION DATE: 3/13/2020

HEARD: 10/5/2021

Jay Brahmani Mataji Corp. d/b/a Stafford Discount Liquors (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 remote hearing via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, regarding an alleged violation of M.G.L. Ch. 138, § 34 Sale or delivery of an alcoholic beverage to a person under twenty-one years of age (1 count). Prior to the commencement of the hearing, the Licensee stipulated to the facts in Investigator Gould's report.

The following documents are in evidence:

- 1. Investigator Gould's Violation Report;
- 2. ABCC Form 43 License Transfer Approved, 10/14/2014
- 3. ABCC Decision, 3/13/2020;
- 4. Licensee's Stipulation of Facts.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On Friday, March 13, 2020, at approximately 7:20 p.m. Investigators Keefe and Gould ("Investigators") along with Officer Patrick Harrington of the Worcester Police Department Alcohol Unit, conducted an inspection of the business operation of Jay Brahmani Mataji Corp. d/b/a Stafford Discount Liquors to determine the manner in which its business was being conducted.
- 2. While conducting surveillance outside of the establishment Investigators observed a vehicle occupied by two people enter the parking lot. Investigators observed a youthful appearing male individual exit the vehicle and enter the establishment. Minutes later, Investigators observed the same individual exit the premises carrying alcoholic beverages.

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- 3. The youthful appearing male, Underage #1, actual date of birth, 9/30/2001 (age 18), was in possession of two 24-packs of Bud Light beer.
- 4. Investigators approached the male, identified themselves and requested proof of age. Underage #1 provided to Investigators a fraudulent Massachusetts driver's license in his own name with a different birth date. He then presented his true Massachusetts driver's license. Underage #1 advised Investigators that he was not asked for identification in the store. Investigators confiscated the beer.
- 5. Investigators entered the licensed premises and spoke to Suresh Patel and his wife Gida Patel. Underage #1 identified Mrs. Patel as the person who rang up the sale.
- 6. Officer Harrington spoke to the owner, Krishna Patel, over the telephone. Mr. Patel was informed of the violation and that a report would be filed with the Chief Investigator for further action.
- 7. The employees on duty for this occurrence were the same employees who sold alcoholic beverages to minors on November 8, 2019.
- 8. At the Licensee's hearing before the ABCC on March 3, 2020 regarding the violation of November 8, 2019, the Licensee, Krishna Patel, testified under oath that he would fire the employees who had made the sale of alcohol to underage individuals (3 counts). Two weeks later, the employees were still working.
- 9. Krishna Patel appeared at the Commission hearing. The Commission was informed the employees were in fact terminated but were given notice of said termination and allowed to work for a set period of time before the termination took effect. The Licensee acknowledged this was poor judgment.
- 10. The Licensee has been licensed under M.G.L. c. 138, § 15 since 2014 with one prior violation.

CONCLUSION

Based on the evidence, the Commission finds the Licensee violated M.G.L. Ch. 138, § 34 Sale or delivery of an alcoholic beverage to a person under twenty-one years of age (1 count). Therefore, the Commission suspends the license for a period of two (2) days which are hereby deemed served.

By decision dated March 13, 2020, the Commission ordered a two (2) day suspension, with one (1) day to be served and one (1) day to be held in abeyance for a period of two (2) years provided no further violations of Chapter 138 or Commission Regulations occur. Based on the violation found above, the Commission, in its discretion, hereby orders that 1-day suspension be imposed and is hereby deemed served.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION

Deborah A. Baglio, Commissioner Della Oralla
Jean M. Lorizio, Chairman Jem M. Lunio
Crystal Matthews, Commissioner Cyll MAD
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Dated: November 10, 2021

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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cc: Local Licensing Board
Frederick G. Mahony, Chief Investigator
Kyle E. Gill, Esq., Associate General Counsel
Brian Gould, Investigator
Dennis Keefe, Investigator
Officer Patrick Harrington, Worcester Police Department
Gregory C. Demakis, Esq.
Administration, File