

Chairman

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

#### NOTICE OF SUSPENSION

March 13, 2020

JAY BRAHMANI MATAJI CORP. D/B/A STAFFORD DISCOUNT LIQUORS 191 STAFFORD STREET WORCESTER, MA 01603 LICENSE #: 00259-PK-1508

VIOLATION DATE: 11/08/2019

HEARD: 3/03/2020

After a hearing on March 3, 2020, the Commission finds Jay Brahmani Mataji Corp. d/b/a Stafford Discount Liquors violated M.G.L. Ch. 138, § 34 Sale or delivery of an alcoholic beverage to a person under twenty-one years of age (3 counts).

The Commission suspends the license for a period of two (2) days of which one (1) day 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 occur.

The suspension shall be served on Monday, April 27, 2020. The license will be delivered to the Local Licensing Board or its designee on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. It will be returned to the licensee on April 28, 2020.

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



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

Jean M. Lorizio, Esq. Chairman

#### **DECISION**

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

WORCESTER, MA 01603 LICENSE #: 00259-PK-1508

VIOLATION DATE: 11/08/2019 HEARD: 3/03/2020

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 ("Commission" or "ABCC") held a hearing on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 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 (3 counts). 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. Licensee's Stipulation of Facts;
- 3. Copy of Fraudulent Drivers' Licenses;
- 4. Copy of License Transfer Approval, 10/14/2014.

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

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. On Friday, November 8, 2019, at approximately 3:40 p.m. Investigators Kujawski and Gould ("Investigators") conducted an investigation 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 of interest enter the parking lot. Investigators observed two (2) youthful looking male individuals exit the vehicle and enter the establishment. Minutes later, Investigators

- observed the same individuals exit the premises carrying multiple bottles of alcoholic beverages and place the alcohol in the back seat of the vehicle.
- 3. Investigators contacted Worcester Police Officer Patrick Harrington about this vehicle. Officer Harrington requested that the Investigators follow the vehicle and update him with locations. Investigators did so, and Officer Harrington was able to stop the vehicle on Southbridge Street just prior to Boyden Street. Officer Harrington identified himself and asked to see proof of legal age.
- 4. The underage individuals were in possession of:
  - one (1) bottle of Arrow Blue Curação liqueur;
  - two (2) 1.75-liter bottles Svedka vodka;
  - one 12-pack White Claw Hard Seltzer;
  - one (1) 1.75-liter bottle of dark rum;
  - one (1) bottle of Barefoot wine; and
  - one (1) bottle of champagne.
- 5. Underage #1, actual date of birth 12/02/2000 (age 18), presented to Investigators his New York driver's license but stated that his fraudulent New York driver's license was wedged between the seat and the console. Underage #1 stated that he was not asked for identification at the store.
- 6. Underage #2, actual date of birth 10/23/1999 (age 20), presented to Investigators a Massachusetts driver's license and stated that his fraudulent Maine driver's license was in the console. Underage #2 stated that he was not asked for identification at the store.
- 7. At approximately 9:00 p.m. on November 8, 2019, Investigators Kujawski and Gould arrived at the package store to speak with the employee about the purchase of alcohol by the underage individuals earlier that day.
- 8. Investigators observed a youthful individual exiting the licensed premises with a 12-pack of White Claw Hard Seltzer. Investigators identified themselves and asked to see proof of legal age.
- 9. Underage #3, actual date of birth, 9/06/2000 (age 19), presented to Investigators a fraudulent Connecticut driver's license.
- 10. Investigators entered the licensed premises and spoke to Suresh Patel. Mr. Patel advised Investigators that his wife, Gida Patel, was working at the store earlier in the day when the first incident occurred.
- 11. Investigators informed Mr. Patel of the violations, and that a report would be filed with the Chief Investigator for further action.
- 12. Krishna Patel, Licensee and Manager, appeared at the Commission hearing. The Commission was informed it has been, and continues to be, the Licensee's policy to request identification from any patron who appears to be 45 years of age or younger. In addition, the Licensee no longer accepts out of state identification.

- 13. Mr. Patel testified that he is vigilant about preventing underage patrons from obtaining alcohol and goes so far as to conduct his own compliance checks.
- 14. The Licensee has been licensed under M.G.L. c. 138, § 15 since 2014 with no prior violations.

### **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 (3 counts). Therefore, the Commission suspends the license for a period of two (2) days of which one (1) day 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 occur.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION

Jean M. Lorizio, Chairman

Crystal Matthews, Commissioner

Dated: March 13, 2020

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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