

**LICENSES AND CONSUMER SERVICES
LICENSE INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

License Number: L198-50119 **Police File Number:** 13230

Date of Application: March 3, 2012

Inspector: Greg Buening, 612-673-3851

Applicant/Legal Entity: Namaste Natural Products LLC

DBA/Trade Name: Namaste Cafe

Complete Address: 2512 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55408

License Requested: On-Sale Liquor with Sunday Sales, Class "E"

Current License: On-Sale Wine with Strong Beer, Class "E"

Responsible person within 75 miles of Minneapolis City Hall: Yes

Public Hearing Requirement: A public hearing is required

License Conditions: None

Neighborhood/Ward: East Isles / 10

Zoning: C-1

7 acre requirement: Met

Off- Street Parking: The business is required to have four off-street parking spaces. This is met

Churches or schools within 300 feet of the proposed premises: No

Seating: Inside: 52 Seats Outside: 64

Fire Occupancy: Inside: 54 Maximum Capacity Outside: 122

Food Service Requirement: The applicant meets the minimum food service requirement. They have 60/40 food to alcohol ratio.

Hours of operation proposed: Inside: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. daily for inside and outside

Metropolitan Council Service Availability Charges: None

HISTORY OF LOCATION

There has been an On-Sale Wine License, Class “E” operating at that location since 2008 as Namaste Cafe. Prior to Namaste this space was used for retail purposes, specifically an antique mall.

APPLICANT

The applicant is Namaste Natural Products LLC, a Minnesota corporation formed on August 27, 2007, under Chapter 322B (Charter Number 2484185-2). The applicant has provided documentation showing adequate, legal, and traceable funding for this venture. They have the required restriction on the transfer of shares and have the following shareholders and officers:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Shares</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Rajee Aryal | Member | 90% |
| Saujanya Shrestha | Member/Treasurer | 10% |

MANAGER

Mr. Shrestha has been the manager and will continue to work in that capacity if this application is granted.

POLICE REVIEW

Police Licensing and this Inspector have reviewed the expenses and source of funds reported in this application. The applicant has provided documentation showing adequate legal and traceable funding for this venture and has passed the criminal background check. The Fifth Precinct of the Minneapolis Police Department has discussed security issues with the applicant.

PREMISES

The lease shows exclusive use of premises by applicant. The licensed premises are on the first floor of the establishment. The premises occupy approximately 2,800 square feet. There is seating for 52 people at tables and chairs. The bar seats three people. The business has an outdoor patio that seats 64 people.

BUSINESS PLAN/OPERATIONS

The restaurant will continue, as they have in the past a full lunch and dinner menu, and has a focus on many varieties of chai and freshly brewed tea from Nepal. Food items focus on cuisine from South Asia and Nepal. The establishment must operate as a restaurant subject to the 60/40 ratio of food to alcohol sales. No more than 40% of sales may be from alcohol. All staff shall undergo alcohol server training on an annual basis. All new staff will receive in-house alcohol server training prior to their first shift and alcohol server training within thirty days of hire. All guests will be required to present valid, government-issued identification. Bartenders and wait staff should immediately check the identification of any person who appears to be under the age of 21 and not rely on other staff members to screen potential underage guests. Obviously intoxicated patrons will not be admitted. Service to obviously intoxicated guests is prohibited. Patrons will not be allowed to remove alcohol from the premises. The hours of operation for the establishment will be 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. daily. All litter and trash will be removed from the front and back of the premises on a daily basis, as needed.

Management will take whatever steps are necessary to manage the noise level, up to and including, not allowing any loitering outside of the premises, with the exception of an area for smoking.

There will be no mechanical amusement devices or team sponsorships.

No charitable gambling is anticipated.

PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

A public hearing is required for this application. 149 public hearing notices were mailed out to residents and property owners within 600 feet of the premises and e-mailed to the East Isles Neighborhood Association, East Calhoun Community Organization, Calhoun Area Residents Action Group, Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association and the Lyn-Lake Business Association on March 15, 2012. The public hearing will be held on March 27, 2012, at Jefferson Elementary School, 1200 26th Street West. Four people attended the public hearing. Two of the attendees said they have lived directly behind Namaste for several years and said Namaste is a great neighbor to everyone around them. All comments at the public hearing were positive in nature. Business Licensing received two written responses from the public hearing notices that were sent out. One was in favor of the license being approved and one was opposed. The one response in favor of the license indicated that it would be an enhancement to the area. The one opposed indicated that it would add traffic congestion to the area and loud talking, more litter, and be a burden to the parking situation.

RECOMMENDATION

The Licenses and Consumer Services Division recommends approving this application for an On-Sale Liquor with Sunday Sales, Class "E" license.

LICENSE CONDITIONS

There are no license conditions being placed on this license at this time.