

**CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY & REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

In the matter of the On-Sale Liquor License
held by Dawood Lalji Inc
DBA: Centre Village Shop
700 5th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55415
L028 50022

**Findings of Fact,
Conclusions and
Recommendations**

This matter came before a License Settlement Conference hearing on Tuesday, April 14, 2009. Appearing for the licensee was Asif Dawood, Vice President of Dawood Lalji Inc. Appearing for the City of Minneapolis were Ricardo Cervantes, Deputy Director of Licenses & Consumer Services, Craig Eliason, Inspector for Licenses & Consumer Services, Sgt Rolf Markstrom, Minneapolis Police License Investigative Division and Lieutenant Travis Glampe, Commander of the Minneapolis Police License Investigative Division. Based on the evidence presented at the hearing, the following findings of fact are asserted:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Minneapolis Police Department Licensing Division conducts Youth Alcohol Compliance checks in an effort to ensure retail alcohol license holders are not serving alcohol to persons under the age of 21 years.
2. On December 31, 2008 Minneapolis Police Officers conducted a Youth Alcohol Compliance check at Centre Village Shop. Without checking for identification or verifying the underage police shopper's age, the Centre Village Shop employee sold the underage shopper beer. An Administrative Citation for sale of alcohol to a minor was issued to Centre Village Shop in the amount of \$500.
3. On March 12, 2009 Minneapolis Police Officers conducted a second Youth Alcohol Compliance check at Centre Village Shop. After obtaining and reviewing the underage decoy's identification, the Centre Village Shop employee sold the decoy beer. An administrative citation for sale of alcohol to a minor-2nd violation was issued to Centre Village Shop in the amount of \$1,000.
4. In addition to the two-above sale of alcohol to a minor violations, similar violations also occurred on January 18, 2007 and December 16, 2005.
5. Centre Village Shop has held an off sale beer license at this location since December, 2001.

CONCLUSIONS

1. On two separate occasions, employees of Centre Village Shop sold alcohol to persons under the age of 21, in violation of Minneapolis City Ordinance 370.10, Minnesota Statute 340A.503 subd. 2(1) and the established compliance check policy and procedures of the City of Minneapolis. These compliance failures occurred in a period of less than 24 months.
2. The licensee has paid both administrative citation fines relating to the above stated compliance failures.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on evidence presented at the hearing, the Department makes the following recommendations:

1. Centre Village Shop will amend and submit its written policy regarding alcohol service. The policy shall address the following issues:
 - a. policy for carding everyone that appears under 35 years of age
 - b. conducting their own youth alcohol compliance checks four times per year for a period of two years and the rewards/consequences for those employees passing/failing the checks
 - c. addressing alcohol sales at regularly scheduled monthly staff meetings
 - d. requiring all staff selling liquor to attend professional alcohol server training.
2. Centre Village Shop agrees that a manager will be available at all times of alcohol sales.
3. Centre Village Shop agrees to post signs notifying customers of its carding policy at the front door, the beer cooler and the cash register.
4. In lieu of suspension Centre Village Shop agrees to pay a \$2000 sanction for failing two youth alcohol compliance checks. \$1500 of the sanction is stayed pending no further youth alcohol compliance check failures for a period of two years from the signing of this agreement. \$250 will be paid upon signing this agreement and \$250 will be paid 30 days after signing this agreement, payable to the Minneapolis Finance Department, and delivered to the office of Licenses & Consumer Services.

I have read the above report and recommendations. I agree with the report and recommendations. I understand that failure on my part or on the part of the business to adhere to this agreement may lead to further action against the license. I understand that this report must be accepted by the Minneapolis City Council and signed by the Mayor. I understand that future violations may put the license in jeopardy.

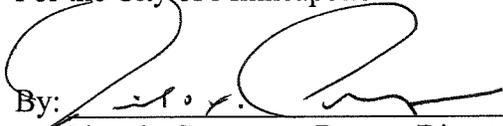
For Dawood Lalji Inc
DBA: Centre Village Shop

By: 

Asif Dawood
Vice President

Date: 7-2-09

For the City of Minneapolis

By: 

Ricardo Cervantes, Deputy Director
Licenses & Consumer Services

Date: 7-7-2009