

Police Department Liquor License Disapproval Recommendation

Application Information

Business Name	VA Market	District	8
Business Location	907 North 32 nd Street		
Applicant Name	Manal Khaled Almasari	Series Type	10

Ms. Manal Khaled Almasari through Rasha LLC has applied as the sole applicant for a Series #10 liquor license for the VA Market located at 907 North 32nd Street.

The Police Department recommends disapproval of this liquor license application for the following reasons:

Historical Information:

The applicant is married to Mr. Nathmi Mohammad Abuarar, the State of Arizona is a community property state. Mr. Nathmi Abuarar and his brother Omar Muhammad Abuarar are the former owners of the El Ranchero Meat Market at 2247 N 32nd Street, Phoenix Arizona. This business closed due to a fire on June 6, 2018.

On or about November 25, 2013 Mr. Nathmi Abuarar cashed a stolen United States Department Treasury check with the knowledge the Treasury check was stolen. Mr. Abuarar was placed on probation for this offense.

On May 31, 2017 while on probation for the stolen check Mr. Nathmi Abuarar and his brother Omar Abuarar were arrested and charged with Conspiracy, Illegally conducting an Enterprise, Sale of a Dangerous Drug class 2 felony, Possession of a Dangerous Drug for Sale class 2 felony, Possession of a Dangerous Drug for sale in the amount over the Statutory Threshold class 2 felony and Sell or Offer for Sale 10,000 or more cigarettes that are stamped for reservation sales class 3 felony. The Drug Enforcement Administration had conducted an undercover operation and purchased "Spice" from the brothers at the El Ranchero Meat Market.

Mr. Nathmi Abuarar pled guilty to two counts of Facilitation to commit Sale or Offer for Sale 10,000 or more Cigarettes that are Stamped for on Reservation Sales, a class 6 felony. Nathmi was placed on supervised probation and required to pay restitution in the amount of \$10,980. According to the Arizona Attorney General Prosecutor Nicholas Saccone who handled the case, Mr. Abuarar has yet to pay off his restitution and has two class 6 felonies on record.

As a result of this arrest, Mr. Abuarar's probation from the check cashing was violated and a warrant issued for his arrest for probation violation. Mr. Abuarar's probation was extended another 3 years.

On July 15, 2020 Det. Westfall attempted to contact the applicant Ms. Manal Almasari to discuss this application. Det. Westfall called the VA Market and the phone was answered by Mr. Nathmi Abuarar. Ms. Almasari was not at the store and Mr. Abuarar provided Det. Westfall with her cellular phone number. Det. Westfall asked Mr. Abuarar what the disposition was on his two cases. Mr. Abuarar stated both cases were dismissed, he was never on probation, and was not required to pay any restitution. He claimed it was an employee not him who had done those things.

LIQUOR LICENSE DISAPPROVAL FORM

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Det. Westfall then called Ms. Almasari, she could hear several children in the background and Ms. Almasari said she had run home from the store to take care of one of the children.

Ms. Almasari stated her husband had heard from a friend that the VA Market was for sale. They had purchased the business by borrowing money from Mr. Abuarar's brothers who own Joes Quick Stop and Razan Market in Arizona. Det. Westfall asked about her husband's court cases, and she stated he had just finished probation in January 2020. She believed he had to pay \$500 a month for the spice arrest. Ms. Almasari claims she will be managing and running the store full time and her husband will be home with the children.

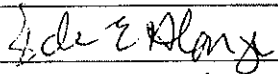
A.R.S. 4-203A states "A spirituous liquor license shall be issued only after satisfactory showing of the capability, qualification and reliability of the applicant and, with the exception of club licensees, that the public convenience requires and the best interest of the community will be substantially served by the issuance."

A.R.S. 4-210. A.12 states that it is grounds for revocation, suspension and refusal to renew a liquor license when, "the licensee or controlling person knowingly associates with a person who has engaged in racketeering, as defined in section 13-2301, or has been convicted of a felony, and the association is of such a nature as to create a reasonable risk that the licensee will fail to conform to the requirements of this title or any criminal statutes of this state". Per A.R.S. 13-2301 D.4(b)(xxvi) both terrorism and a scheme or artifice to defraud for financial gain are included within the definition of racketeering.

Ms. Almasari's husband is a convicted felon and has used his business in the past to facilitate criminal activity. Ms. Almasari and her husband Mr. Abuarar were not completely truthful when answering questions about the criminal cases. Ms. Almasari's close association with others involved in criminal activity could cause risk that she will not conform to the law, and causes concern related to her qualifications as a licensee. Per the above quoted statutes, if Ms. Almasari currently held a liquor license those associations could be considered as possible grounds for revocation, suspension and refusal to renew that license.

Based on the aforementioned reasons the applicant has failed to show that they are reliable, capable or qualified and transfer of the liquor license for this establishment would not be in the best interest of the community.

This recommendation for disapproval is submitted by: Det. G. Westfall #7011

SIGNATURES	
Administrative Licensing Investigator	Alonge A4289 
Liquor Enforcement Detail Supervisor	Sgt. M. Doty 5785 