

Hot Spot Smoke Shop

Raja Sinsh
159 Joerschke Dr.,
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Formal Request for City Council Review of Tobacco Retailer's License

To:

City Clerk, Grass Valley
125 East Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Dear Ms. Whittingslow:

I, Raja Singh, respectfully submit this written appeal and request for City Council review of the Hearing Officer's decision dated March 31, 2025, which upheld the denial of Hot Spot Smoke Shop's Tobacco Retail License renewal. Enclosed is a copy of the Hearing Officer's decision, along with the required appeal processing fee of \$432.00.

1. Reasons for Appeal

1. Licensing Deadline Confusion

When I attempted to renew the license before its February 11, 2025 expiration, a staff member informed me that the store still had about a month and a half remaining on the current license. I was instructed to return later, closer to the expiration date.

Unfortunately, by the time I returned, the filing deadline had already passed, leading to our renewal application being submitted late. Had we been informed accurately, we would have renewed on time and included all necessary fees.

2. Unintentional Possession of Illegal Products

Regarding the flavored vape pens discovered during the compliance check on February 25, 2025, we purchased these products from a large wholesale retailer and were unaware that they contained prohibited flavors. Once we became aware of their illegality, we immediately disposed of all remaining similar items. We sincerely regret this oversight and are committed to preventing such an incident in the future by carefully checking product labels and verifying compliance with all local and state regulations.

2. Alleged Errors in the Hearing Officer's Decision

- We believe the Hearing Officer's decision did not fully consider the staff member's guidance that contributed to our late filing. Our delay was not intentional; it was influenced by the misunderstanding that we had additional time before the license expired.
- While the presence of flavored vape pens is certainly a serious matter, we took swift corrective action by removing the products entirely upon learning of their prohibited status. We ask for leniency given our prompt compliance once informed.

3. Request for Relief

We respectfully request that the City Council overturn or modify the Hearing Officer's decision and allow us to renew our Tobacco Retailer's License. Hot Spot Smoke Shop has been a responsible business in Grass Valley, and we are committed to adhering to all regulations moving forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if any additional documentation or information is required. I can be reached at (409) 991- 4417 or by email at singhraj2005@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Signature
Raja Singh
Owner, Hot Spot Smoke Shop
440 Colfax Ave., Grass Valley, CA 95945