

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION  
1511 PONTIAC AVENUE  
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND 02920**

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<b>IN THE MATTER OF</b>	:	
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<b>HILL FARM VINEYARDS, LLC.</b>	:	<b>:RI DBR No. 23LIQ004</b>
	:	
<b>d/b/a MULBERRY VINEYARDS</b>	:	
	:	
<b>RESPONDENT</b>	:	

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**CONSENT AGREEMENT**

It is hereby agreed between the Commercial Licensing Division (“Division”) of the Department of Business Regulation (“Department”) and Hill Farm Vineyards, LLC. (“Respondent”) as follows:

1. Respondent holds a Farmer-Winery Manufacturers License for the manufacturing of wine type alcoholic beverages pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 3-6-6.1.

2. R.I. Gen Laws § 3-5-21 provides:

That every license is subject to revocation or suspension and a license is subject to fine by the Department, on its own motion, for breach by the holder of the license of the conditions on which it was issued or for violation by the holder of the license of any statute, rule or regulation applicable.

3. R.I. Gen. Laws § 3-6-1.1(d) provides, in pertinent part:

(d) A winegrower shall not import unfermented juice, wine or alcohol into the state.

4. R.I. Gen. Laws § 3-6-1.1(f) provides, in pertinent part:

A winegrower may not sell at retail to consumers any wine or winery product not fermented in the state and sold under the brand name of the winery.

5. R.I. Gen. Laws § 3-6-1.1(c) provides, in pertinent part:
  - (c) A winegrower may import fruit, flowers, herbs, and vegetables to produce not more than seven thousand five hundred (7,500) gallons of wine during his or her first year of operation, not more than five thousand (5,000) gallons during his or her second year of operation, not more than two thousand five hundred (2,500) gallons during his or her third year of operation and not more than one thousand (1,000) gallons per year thereafter.
  
6. R.I. Gen. Laws § 3-6-1(a), Manufacturers License provides, in pertinent part:
  - (a) A manufacturer's license authorizes the holder to establish and operate a brewery, distillery, or winery at the place described in the license for the manufacture of beverages within this state. The license does not authorize more than one of the activities of operator of a brewery or distillery or winery and a separate license shall be required for each plant.
  
7. On June 23, 2023, the Department received a complaint that Hill Farm Vineyards, LLC may be receiving shipments of finished wine from out of state wine producers in violation of R.I. General Laws § 3-6-1.1. Chief Public Protection Inspector John Mancone conducted an inspection of the facility. During this inspection, Inspector Mancone observed that Hill Farm Vineyards, LLC was brewing, selling and serving beer without the proper license. Inspector Mancone explained to the owners, David and Melissa Wright that brewing beer was not an authorized activity under their present Farmer-Winery license. The owners were instructed to cease the brewing and selling of beer.
  
8. On a subsequent inspection on July 10, 2024, Inspector Mancone requested all bills, receipts and invoices for the past year as authorized by R.I. General Laws. These were provided and reviewed.
  
9. After an investigation it was determined that the Respondent had imported finished wine to be sold under their label at Hill Farm Vineyards, LLC, d/b/a Mulberry Vineyards location at 95 Pound Road, Chepachet, RI.
  
10. Based on the foregoing, the Division has reason to believe that Respondent violated R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 3-5-1, 3-6-1.1(c)(d) and (f), and 3-8-6.
  
11. The Department has sufficient cause to impose an administrative penalty pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 3-5-21.
  
12. In an effort to resolve the above-referenced violations and allow the Respondent to maintain its license in good-standing, Respondent agrees to the following:

- a. Respondent understands that the Department is charged with protecting the public by ensuring that its Licensees are competent and trustworthy and are reasonably familiar with the statutes and laws relating to the manufacture, sale and serving of alcoholic beverages.
- b. Respondent shall comply with all terms and requirements for licensure under R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 3-5-1, *et seq.* and 3-6-1.1 *et seq.*
- c. Respondent agrees that a failure to comply with all terms and requirements for licensure as described therein' may result in the revocation of Respondent's license.
- d. Respondent shall not engage in the importation of finished wine for the purpose of bottling and selling under their label.
- e. Respondent shall not brew, sell or serve beer at the premises without the proper licensure.
- f. Respondent may be the subject of random and unannounced inspections during normal business hours.
- g. Respondent shall be required to furnish the Department with all invoices, bills and receipts upon request.
- h. Respondent shall pay a fine in the amount of \$250.00, by check or money order, payable to the Rhode Island General Treasurer.
- i. Respondent voluntarily waives its rights to the hearing process, voluntarily waives its right to appeal to Superior Court, admits that the allegations herein, are true, and agrees to take all necessary action as delineated in this Consent Agreement in order to maintain its license in good standing.

10. If Respondent fails to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement, the Department reserves its right to initiate the administration hearing process to revoke Respondent's license pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 3-5-21 and 42-35-9.

THE DEPARTMENT AND RESPONDENT HEREBY CONSENT AND AGREE  
TO THE FOREGOING AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

Department of Business Regulation

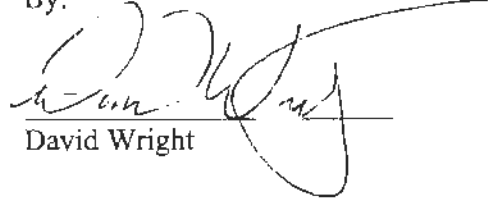


Donald DeFedele  
Associate Director  
State of Rhode Island  
Department of Business Regulation  
Commercial Licensing Division

Date: 1/27/2025

Respondent

By:



David Wright

Date: 1/15/2025