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Director of Public Health

CITY OF EASTHAMPTON

BOARD OF HEALTH

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

October 2, 2023

Valley Farms
Attn: Falguni Patel
128 Northampton St.
Easthampton, MA 01027

Re: Decision on Valley Farms Tobacco Violations

A. Procedural History

1. On August 12, 2023, the Pioneer Valley Tobacco Coalition conducted a compliance and education check at Valley Farms where a total of 9 violations were observed by a Tobacco Control Officer
2. On September 12, 2023, the Easthampton Health Department sent a Correction/Cease and Desist Order to Valley Farms via certified first-class mail. This order contained a fine of \$8600.00 to be submitted within twenty-one days of receipt of the order as well as a 30-day suspension of all tobacco product sales beginning October 19, 2023.
3. On September 14, 2023, Attorney Truax, representing Valley Farms, filed an appeal on the Correction/Cease and Desist Order via email. This appeal was added to the September 20, 2023, BOH meeting agenda.
4. On September 20, 2023, the BOH held its duly posted meeting which Mr. & Mrs. Patel and Attorney Truax attended.
5. At this meeting, a hearing was held by the BOH regarding the tobacco violations appeal submitted by Valley Farms. During this hearing, all representatives of Valley Farms and all BOH members were given time to speak. A voted decision was then made by the BOH.

B. Vote to Deny Appeal

1. The BOH voted 3-0 in approval of denying the Valley Farms tobacco violations appeal.

C. Decision

1. The Easthampton Board of Health voted 3-0 in favor of denying the Valley Farms tobacco violations appeal. With this decision, the original \$8600.00 fine due by October

6, 2023, and the 30-day tobacco sales permit suspension beginning October 19, 2023, remain in place.

D. Right to Judicial Appeal

1. Any person aggrieved by the final decision of the Board of Health or the Department, as applicable, with respect to any order or other action taken with respect to 105 CMR 665.000 may seek relief therefrom in any court of competent jurisdiction, as provided by the laws of this Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Brian Chapdelaine
Health Agent