

IN THE MATTER OF THE * BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF HUIZHEN CHEN * BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
ON BEHALF OF NEW YAMA, LLC * OF
T/A YAMA SUSHI FOR A TRANSFER * HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
OF A CLASS B BEER, WINE & *
LIQUOR 7-DAY ON SALE LICENSE * Case No.: 20-21

DECISION AND ORDER

The Board of License Commissioners for Howard County, Maryland (the “Liquor Board”), pursuant to Rule 1.02(A) of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, has delegated the authority to hear and decide cases to the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board for Howard County, Maryland (the “Hearing Board”).

On July 14, 2020, by way of a web-based on-line platform, WebEx, the Hearing Board heard the application of Huizhen Chen (the “Applicant”), on behalf of New Yama, LLC t/a Yama Sushi (“Yama Sushi”) for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license from Yama Sushi, LLC t/a Yama Sushi in the name of Ah Mei Wong for a 1,788 square foot restaurant located at 4725-G Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

The hearing was properly advertised, and the property was posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicant was represented by Thomas Meachum, Esquire. There were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

All the documents on file were incorporated into the record by reference.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

May Wong was sworn in as an interpreter/translator to assist Huizhen Chen with her testimony.

Huizhen Chen, sole proposed licensee with a 51% ownership interest, was sworn in and testified that she has been operating this restaurant under a management agreement since January of 2020. Ms. Chen testified that Yama Sushi Restaurant is located in the Dorsey Search Village Center and has been in operation since 2010 and she has had no problems or violations of liquor laws while she has been operating the restaurant under a management agreement.

Ms. Chen testified that this restaurant is currently open and there are 55 seats inside the restaurant and no outdoor seating where alcohol is served. Ms. Chen stated that they have closed the indoor restaurant due to COVID-19 and they are currently only offering carryout. Ms. Chen testified that when the restaurant is fully operational they have approximately three servers, all of whom have taken the alcohol awareness training. Ms. Chen stated that she has worked at the restaurant since January of 2020 and has had the responsibility of overseeing the complete operations of the restaurant. Ms. Chen also testified that her husband, Yongdeng Chen has a 49% interest in the business, but his sole role is to work at the restaurant as a chef.

Ms. Chen testified that she is alcohol awareness certified and that she has read and understands the liquor board rules and will abide by them. Ms. Chen testified that she did have a previous PBJ for inadequate recordkeeping; however, she did not include this in her background application as she did not know that it was necessary to provide this information. Ms. Chen stated that the current owner has provided training on how to run the business and guidance on following rules and regulations. Ms. Chen testified that she understands what records must be maintained, including all invoices for any alcohol purchased, ordering receipts, and employee records.

Ms. Chen testified that there will be a manager on site at all times. Ms. Chen also stated that she plans to give back to the community by providing donations to the local schools and

Board of Education. Ms. Chen believes Yama Sushi Restaurant will be a benefit to the community.

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicant waived her right to request the Liquor Board to hear the case.

Based on the evidence presented at the hearing, the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Hearing Board finds that Huizhen Chen, on behalf of New Yama, LLC t/a Yama Sushi, has applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license from Yama Sushi, LLC t/a Yama Sushi in the name of Ah Mei Wong for a 1,788 square foot restaurant located at 4725-G Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

2. The Hearing Board finds that the Applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board finds that the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.

4. The Hearing Board finds that the granting of the application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Hearing Board concludes that that Huizhen Chen, on behalf of New Yama, LLC t/a Yama Sushi, has applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license from Yama Sushi, LLC t/a Yama Sushi in the name of Ah Mei Wong for a 1,788 square foot restaurant located at 4725-G Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

2. The Hearing Board concludes that Huizhen Chen meets the State of Maryland

Yama, LLC t/a Yama Sushi, has applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license from Yama Sushi, LLC t/a Yama Sushi in the name of Ah Mei Wong for a 1,788 square foot restaurant located at 4725-G Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

2. The Hearing Board concludes that Huizhen Chen meets the State of Maryland resident agent requirements.

3. The Hearing Board concludes that the Applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

4. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.

4. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of the application would not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the neighborhood.

ORDER

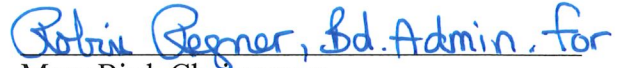
For the foregoing reasons, it is this 11th day of September, 2020, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Huizhen Chen, on behalf of New Yama, LLC t/a Yama Sushi, for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license from Yama Sushi, LLC t/a Yama Sushi in the name of Ah Mei Wong for a 1,788 square foot restaurant located at 4725-G Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicant complies with all State and County Rules and Regulations; and
- (b) That the Applicant satisfies any requirements necessary to obtain the

ATTEST:

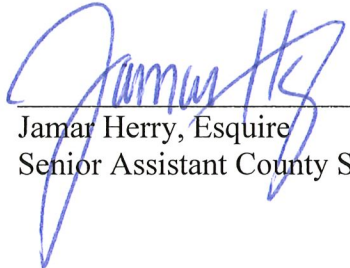
**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND**

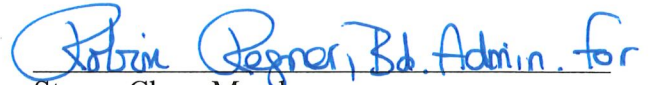

Robin Regner
Board Administrator


Mary Bird, Chairperson


Harry Evans, Vice Chairperson

**REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY
OFFICE OF LAW
GARY W. KUC
COUNTY SOLICITOR**


Jamar Herry, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor


Steven Chen, Member


Charley C. Sung, Member


Claire Kim, Member