IN THE MATTER OF THE \* BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC \* APPLICATION OF GUIZHI NI BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD ON BEHALF OF DNT ENTERPRISE, \* FOR \* INC. T/A HARWOOD CONVENIENCE HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND FOR ARESIDENT AGENT CHANGE \* ON A CLASS A-1 BEER, WINE, & \* LIQUOR 7-DAY OFF-SALE LICENSE \* Case No.: 21-35

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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 June 22, 2021, the Hearing Board heard the application of Guizhi Ni (the "Applicant") on behalf of DNT Enterprise, Inc. t/a Harwood Convenience ("Harwood Convenience") for a resident agent change from Jae Kon Yoo on a Class A Beer, Wine, & Liquor 7-off on-sale license for a 1,632 square foot package goods store located at 6641 Washington Blvd., Elkridge, MD 21075.

The hearing was properly advertised and the property posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicant was represented by Jay S. Yoo, Esq., and 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**

Guizhi Ni, proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified that she and her husband, Mr. Ni, both share an ownership interest in Harwood Convenience. Ms. Ni indicated this change is necessary as the current resident agent, Jae Kon Yoo, wants to be removed and has a 10% interest in Harwood Convince.

Ms. Ni testified that she has lived in Howard County since 2013, is a registered voter in Howard County, and is alcohol awareness certified. Ms. Ni testified her husband is also alcohol awareness certified. Ms. Ni testified she has no serious criminal convictions.

Ms. Ni testified that the hours of operation for Harwood Convenience are from 10:00 am to 9:30 pm and that her husband and her cover half the time of store hours. Ms. Ni testified that there are two other employees that work at Hardwood Convenience, one employee has alcohol awareness training, but the other employee does not have alcohol awareness training. In 2015, Ms. Ni incurred a liquor violation due to a sale to a minor. After that violation, Ms. Ni testified she hired Mr. Martin Johnson to reassess the store's business plan and policies. Ms. Ni testified since the one violation in 2015, there have been no more liquor violations. Ms. Ni stated that she is familiar with Howard County Liquor Rules and Regulation and that she knows she must purchase Harwood Convenience's liquor inventory from a wholesaler. Ms. Ni testified she will always maintain employee records and maintain for liquor inspector to inspect during business hours.

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicant waived her right to request an appeal to 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 Guizhi Ni (the "Applicant") on behalf of DNT Enterprise, Inc. t/a Harwood Convenience ("Harwood Convenience") for a resident agent change

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from Jae Kon Yoo on a Class A Beer, Wine, & Liquor 7-off on-sale license for a 1,632 square foot package goods store located at 6641 Washington Blvd., Elkridge, MD 21075. 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 Guizhi Ni has been a Howard County resident for more than two years, is a registered voter, and a 55% interest holder of Harwood Convenience.

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

5. 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 Guizhi Ni , on behalf of DNT Enterprise, Inc. t/a Harwood Convenience ("Harwood Convenience"), has applied for a resident agent change from Jae Kon Yoo on a Class A Beer, Wine, & Liquor 7-off on-sale license for a 1,632 square foot package goods store located at 6641 Washington Blvd., Elkridge, MD 21075.

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

3. The Hearing Board concludes that Guizhi Ni meets the requirements of Rules 1.10(S), 1.10(T), and 2.06 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations concerning resident agent qualifications.

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

5. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of this application would not

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unduly disturb the peace and safety of the neighborhood.

## <u>ORDER</u>

For the foregoing reasons, it is this *He* day of *Othelee*, 2021, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED** that the application of Guizhi Ni, on behalf of DNT Enterprise, Inc. t/a Harwood Convenience ("Harwood Convenience"), for a resident agent change from Jae Kon Yoo on a Class A Beer, Wine, & Liquor 7-off on-sale license for a 1,632 square foot package goods store located at 6641 Washington Blvd., Elkridge, MD 21075., be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicant comply with all State and County Rules and Regulations; and
- (b) That the Applicant satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by January 4, 2021 unless that deadline is extended by the Board upon good cause shown; and
- (c) Failure to comply with these conditions shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

**ATTEST:** 

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Ashley Aguilar Board Administrator

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

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Mary Bird, Chairperson

Harry Evans, Vice-Chairperson

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

Steve Chen, Member

Claire Kim, Member

Jamar Herry, Esquire Senior Assistant County Solicitor

<u>DOT PRESENT</u> Charley C. Sung, Member