

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF YOON JI	*	
CHOE AND KEUNHOI KIM	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
ON BEHALF OF KIM & CHOE,	*	
INC. T/A KPOCHA FOR A	*	FOR
TRANSFER OF A CLASS B	*	
BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
7 DAY ON SALE LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 26-07
	*	

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 January 13, 2026, the Hearing Board heard the application of Yoon Ji Choe and Keunhoi Kim (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Kim & Choe, Inc. t/a KPocha (“KPocha”), for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 2,000 sq. ft. restaurant located at 8801 Baltimore National Pike, #17, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

The hearing was properly advertised, and the property posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants were represented by Jay Yoo, Esquire 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

Yoon Ji Choe, 100% interest holder and proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Ms. Choe testified that there have been no changes to the application since its submittal and that she is a resident of Howard County. Ms. Choe testified that the restaurant is currently open and that she will manage the business and daily operations. Ms. Choe stated that she understands her role as the resident agent and that she is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations. Ms. Choe stated that she has experience in restaurant and alcohol and that she previously worked as a cashier at Honey Pig in Ellicott City and as a server at Iron Age in Catonsville. Ms. Choe stated that she has incurred no alcohol violations or criminal or traffic violations and that she will card anyone appearing under 40 years of age. Ms. Choe stated that there is no bar on the premises and that she is Alcohol Awareness Certified. Ms. Choe stated that all employees will be Alcohol Awareness Certified and that there are currently 2 kitchen employees and 2 servers. Ms. Choe stated that they may hire 2 additional servers, that her parents work in the kitchen, that she and her husband are the servers, and that they are all Alcohol Awareness Certified.

Ms. Choe stated that there will be no changes to the restaurant concept and that she will not serve anyone appearing to be intoxicated. Ms. Choe stated that alcohol sales will be 10% to 15% of the total gross sales, that alcohol will be stored in a refrigerator near the kitchen entrance, and that only staff will be able to access the alcohol. Ms. Choe stated that she will be a good corporate citizen by donating to the fire department, schools, and any other organizations in need. Ms. Choe testified as to the location of the restaurant and stated that they serve traditional Korean dishes and street food. Ms. Choe stated that there are 8 tables and that the restaurant seats 50 people. Ms. Choe stated that she was not aware of any previous violations, and that the hours of operation are from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. 7 days a week.

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicants waived

their 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 Yoon Ji Choe and Keunhoi Kim (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Kim & Choe, Inc. t/a KPocha (“KPocha”), have applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 2,000 sq. ft. restaurant located at 8801 Baltimore National Pike, #17, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

2. The Hearing Board finds that the Applicants are fit and proper persons to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board finds that Yoon Ji Choe, the resident agent applicant, 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 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 Yoon Ji Choe and Keunhoi Kim (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Kim & Choe, Inc. t/a KPocha (“KPocha”), have applied for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 2,000 sq. ft. restaurant located at 8801 Baltimore National Pike, #17, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

2. The Hearing Board concludes that the Applicants are fit and proper persons to

hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board concludes that Yoon Ji Choe, the resident agent applicant, 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 the application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 14th day of May, 2026, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Yoon Ji Choe and Keunhoi Kim (the “Applicants”), on behalf of Kim & Choe, Inc. t/a KPocha (“KPocha”), for a transfer of a Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on-sale License for a 2,000 sq. ft. restaurant located at 8801 Baltimore National Pike, #17, Ellicott City, MD 21043, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicants comply with all State and County laws and regulations;
- (b) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by July 13, 2026 unless that deadline is extended by the Hearing Board upon good cause shown;
and
- (c) Failure to comply with these conditions shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

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

Kel Berg
Kel Berg
Board Administrator

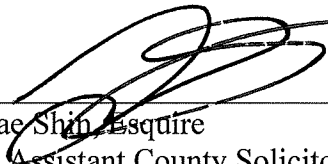
/S/
Steven Chen, Chairperson

/S/
Steve Hunt, Vice-Chairperson

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

/S/
Ed Coleman, Member

/S/
Beth Johnson, Member


Hyunjae Shin, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

/S/
Claire Kim, Member