

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF KIM YIU WONG	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
ON BEHALF OF TAMASHI	*	FOR
EXPRESS, INC. T/A AKIRA RAMEN	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
& IZAKAYA FOR A NEW CLASS B	*	
BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR 7-DAY	*	
ON SALE LICENSE	*	Case No.: 21-10

\*\*\*\*\*

**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 March 23, 2021, the Hearing Board heard the application of Kam Yiu Wong (the “Applicant”) on behalf of Tamashi Express, Inc. t/a Akira Ramen & Izakaya (“Akira Ramen & Izakaya”) for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on sale license for a 3,208 square foot restaurant located at 10100 Twin Rivers Road, Suite C2-100, Columbia MD 21044.

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 Michael P. Hsur, 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

Kam Yi Wong, 100% owner of Akira Ramen & Izakaya and sole liquor license applicant, was sworn and testified as follows:

Mr. Wong testified that he currently holds two other liquor licenses in Maryland, Akira Ramen & Izakaya and The Spot, both in Rockville. Mr. Wong testified that he originally had a 20% interest in both restaurants but due to partners leaving he now owns 50% of Akira Ramen & Izakaya in Rockville. Mr. Wong testified that he also has an interest in two other restaurants featuring Hawaiian poke bowls, neither of which have alcohol licenses.

Mr. Wong testified that before he had a larger interest in Akira Ramen in Rockville, the business received six alcohol permit violations. Mr. Wong testified that the violations were as follows: one permit violation for not having employee records available, two permit violations for not displaying the liquor license properly, two Alcohol Awareness Certification Rule violations, and one permit violation for sale to a minor. Mr. Wong testified that when he gained 50% interest in the business he required all staff take Alcohol Awareness Training and updated the policy for checking ID's, resulting in no additional permit violations since October of 2019.

Mr. Wong testified that Akira Ramen and Izakaya is a Japanese restaurant which mainly features ramen soup as well as sushi and Japanese appetizers. Mr. Wong testified that alcohol sales will be 10-15% of the business and will include Japanese beer, sake and cocktails.

Mr. Wong testified that although he is involved with other businesses, he lives in Howard County and being that the other businesses have experienced managers and staff,

he will spend the majority of his time at this business.

Mr. Wong testified that he is aware of the Howard County rules regarding the onsite maintenance of adequate records and documents, as well as personnel regulations.

The following Exhibit was accepted into the record:

*1. Alcohol Awareness Certificates for 8 serving staff members*

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicant waived his 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 Kam Yiu Wong on behalf of Tamashi Express, Inc. t/a Akira Ramen & Izakaya has applied for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on sale license for a 3,208 square foot restaurant located at 10100 Twin Rivers Road, Suite C2-100, Columbia MD 21044.

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 Kam Yiu Wong is a Howard County resident and a registered voter.

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 Kam Yiu Wong on behalf of Tamashi Express, Inc. t/a Akira Ramen & Izakaya has applied for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on sale license for a 3,208 square foot restaurant located at 10100 Twin Rivers Road, Suite C2-100, Columbia MD 21044.
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 Kam Yiu Wong 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 unduly disturb the peace and safety of the neighborhood.

**ORDER**

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2021, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED** that the application of that Kam Yiu Wong on behalf of Tamashi Express, Inc. t/a Akira Ramen & for a New Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor, 7-day on sale license for a 3,208 square foot restaurant located at 10100 Twin Rivers Road, Suite C2-100, Columbia MD 21044, 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 July 25, 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:**

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



Robin Regner  
Board Administrator



Mary Bird, Chairperson

(Abstained)

Harry Evans, Vice-Chairperson

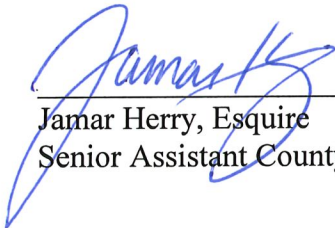
**REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY  
OFFICE OF LAW  
GARY W. KUC  
COUNTY SOLICITOR**

(Recused)

Charley Sung, Member



Steven Chen, Member



Jamar Herry, Esquire  
Senior Assistant County Solicitor



Claire Kim, Member