

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF XIANGMU	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
ZHANG AND DANDAN QIU ON	*	FOR
BEHALF OF SUSHI QQQQQQQ	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
T/A SUSHI Q7 FOR A NEW CLASS	*	
B BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR 7-DAY	*	
ON SALE LICENSE	*	Case No.: 20-12

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 February 11, 2020 and March 10, 2020, the Hearing Board heard the application of Xiangmu Zhang and DanDan Qiu ("Applicants") on behalf of Sushi QQQQQQQ, t/a Sushi Q7 ("Sushi Q7"), for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 2,517 square foot restaurant located at 8530 Washington Blvd., Suites 8 and 9, Jessup, Maryland 20794.

The hearing was properly advertised, and the property was posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicants were represented by David Mister, Esq. There were no protestants in opposition to the application.

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

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

February 11, 2020

DanDan Qiu, 10% owner and proposed licensee, was sworn and testified as follows:

Ms. Qiu testified that she is a U.S. citizen, living in Elkridge, Maryland and has lived in Howard County for over two years. She testified that she has 10 years of experience in the restaurant business. Ms. Qiu will be a full-time employee at Sushi Q7 and will be managing the

business daily along with her husband, who is a trained sushi chef. Ms. Qiu stated that she and her husband each own 10% of the business and that they plan to buy out the 80% owner in the next several years.

Ms. Qiu testified that a restaurant group owns four Sushi Q locations and that none of them have had any liquor violations. Ms. Qiu testified that she and her husband are alcohol awareness certified and that all employees will also be certified. During, Ms. Qiu's testimony, there was concern by the Board regarding the sufficiency of the alcoholic beverage license application, specifically pertaining to the listed authorized persons. Mr. Mister asked for a continuance to review the sufficiency of his clients' application and the Board granted the continuance

May 10, 2020

Cantonese Interpreter, Nina Lai was sworn.

Xiangmu Zhang, 10% owner and licensee applicant, was sworn and testified with the assistance of the interpreter.

Mr. Zhang testified that he has lived in Elkridge, Maryland for the last two years. Mr. Zhang stated that he came to the U.S. from China in 2015 and has worked at the Sushi Q in Elkridge, Maryland, which is owned by his wife's relative. Mr. Zhang testified that he has held many positions at this restaurant and it has an alcoholic beverage license. Mr. Zhang testified that alcohol is a small percentage of the sales at the Sushi Q restaurant in Elkridge, Maryland. Mr. Zhang testified that he will only order alcohol from the wholesale stores and will probably order alcohol three to four times a month. He testified that he has been trained in all aspects of the business including alcoholic beverage regulations.

Mr. Zhang testified that the hours of operation will be Monday through Thursday, 11:00am to 10:00pm, Friday and Saturday 11:00am to 11:00pm and Sunday 12:00pm to 10:00pm. Mr.

Zhang testified that they expect to have nine employees, not including him and his wife who will both work at the restaurant full time. Mr. Zhang testified that he has no ownership in any other Sushi Q restaurant and only served as an employee at the Sushi Q restaurant in Elkridge, Maryland. Mr. Zhang ensured the Board that Mr. Qiu is solely an investor in the new Sushi Q7; he is not an employee, he does not have any management authority, nor will he be an authorized person. Mr. Qiu has decided to make an investment because he trusts Mr. Zhang based on his work experience at the Sushi Q restaurant in Elkridge, Maryland. The plan is to purchase Mr. Qiu's investment interest at some point in the future. Mr. Zhang testified that he has been alcohol awareness certified. Mr. Zhang testified that they will serve sushi and Asian cuisine; the menu will be similar to the Sushi Q restaurant in Elkridge, Maryland.

DanDan Qiu was sworn and testified before the Board.

Ms. Qiu testified that she and Mr. Zhang have lived in Elkridge, Maryland for more than two years and that they have four children. Ms. Qiu testified that she came to the U.S. from China in 2008 to join her family members, living in New York and then Georgia where she worked at an Asian restaurant, Fancy Q. Ms. Qiu testified that she has worked as a waitress at the Sushi Q in Elkridge, Maryland since 2016 and has no ownership interest in the Sushi Q in Elkridge, Maryland. She is familiar with serving alcoholic beverages and is familiar with checking IDs for everyone who wants to purchase alcohol.

Ms. Qiu stated that she will work full time at the restaurant as a waitress and is Alcohol Awareness certified. Ms. Qiu testified that she plans to learn management from her husband. Further, Ms. Qiu stated that her husband would be responsible for ordering alcoholic beverages and she was previously mistaken when she testified that Mr. Qiu would be responsible for ordering alcoholic beverages.

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 Xiangmu Zhang and DanDan Qiu on behalf of Sushi QQQQQQQ, t/a Sushi Q7, have applied for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 2,517 square foot restaurant located at 8530 Washington Blvd., Suites 8 and 9, Jessup, Maryland 20794.

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 Xiangmu Zhang and DanDan Qiu have been Howard County residents for more than two years and have a 10% interest each in Sushi Q7.

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 this application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Hearing Board concludes that Xiangmu Zhang and DanDan Qiu on behalf of Sushi QQQQQQQ, t/a Sushi Q7, have applied for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 2,517 square foot restaurant located at 8530 Washington Blvd., Suites 8 and 9, Jessup, Maryland 20794.

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

3. The Hearing Board finds that Xiangmu Zhang and DanDan Qiu have been

Howard County residents for more than two years and have a 10% interest each in Sushi Q7.

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 21th day of MAY, 2020, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County, **ORDERED**, that the application of Xiangmu Zhang and DanDan Qiu on behalf of Sushi QQQQQQQ, t/a Sushi Q7, for a new Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-day on-sale license for a 2,517 square foot restaurant located at 8530 Washington Blvd., Suites 8 and 9, Jessup, Maryland 20794, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:


- (a) That the Applicants provide the Board with copies of their Alcohol Awareness Certificates;
- (b) That the Applicants comply with all State and County laws and regulations;
- (c) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by August 29, 2020, unless that deadline is extended by the Board upon good cause shown; and
- (d) Failure to comply with these conditions shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

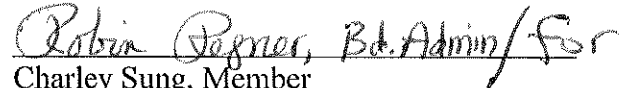
**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND**



Robin Regner
Board Administrator



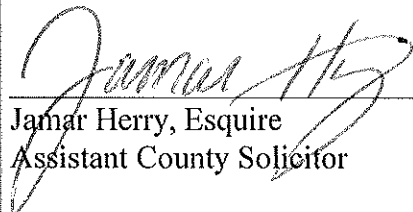
Robin Regner, Bd. Admin. / For
Mary Bird, Chairperson



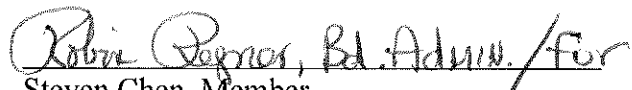
Robin Regner, Bd. Admin. / For
Charley Sung, Member

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

(Not present at March Hearing)
Harry Evans, Member



Jamar Herry, Esquire
Assistant County Solicitor



Robin Regner, Bd. Admin. / For
Steven Chen, Member