



cityofnovi.org

CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item C
February 8, 2016

SUBJECT: Approval of the ownership transfer of a 2015 Class C & SDM Licensed Business with Sunday Sales Permit PM and New Dance Permit from Wasabi Japanese Sushi & Steakhouse, Inc. to Wasabi K & H, Inc., located at 42050 Grand River Avenue, Novi, MI 48375.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Jin Huang is the new owner of Wasabi Japanese Steakhouse and sole applicant of Wasabi K & H, Inc. Mr. Huang currently owns and operates two restaurants in Ann Arbor. He has never held a liquor license in the State of Michigan.

There will be no changes, other than ownership, to Wasabi Japanese Steakhouse. It is an ongoing business that was previously licensed by the State of Michigan. It seeks transfer of the existing Class C liquor license to it from the current operators.

The Police Department, Fire Department, and Building Division have no objections to the request. This request did not require a Special Land Use application because the previous use(s) of the space included the service of alcohol.

The general licensing policy as stated in Chapter 3 of the City Code states, at Section 3-13, that an applicant must demonstrate in particular that the proposed facility:

- (a) Will provide a service, product, or function that is not presently available within the city or that would be unique to the city or to an identifiable area within the city.
- (b) Is of a character that will foster or generate economic development or growth within the city, or an identifiable area of the city, in a manner consistent with the city's policies.
- (c) Represents an added financial investment on the part of a long-term business or resident with recognized ties to the city and the local community.

More specific review criteria are set forth at subsection 3-15(g), and in addition to the general information regarding the applicant and the facility or building at issue, they require a review of the benefits to the community of the proposed use:

(3) **Benefits to community:**

- a. The effects that the issuance of a license would have upon the economic development of the city or the surrounding area.
- b. The effects that the issuance of a license would have on the health, welfare, and safety of the general public.

- c. Whether the applicant has demonstrated a public need or convenience for the issuance of the liquor license for the business facility at the location proposed, taking into consideration the following, together with other factors deemed relevant by the council:
1. The total number of licenses for similar establishments and/or operations in the city, considered both in terms of whether such number of similar establishments is needed and whether there may be a need for other types of establishments that could go unmet if the requested license were granted.
 2. The proximity of the establishment to other licensed liquor establishments, the type of such establishments, whether such other establishments are similar to that proposed, and the anticipated impact of all such determinations.
 3. Whether the proposed location is in an area characterized as developed, redeveloping, or undeveloped, and the anticipated impact of approving the newly proposed establishment in light of such character, taking into consideration the need for any type of additional licensed establishment in the area, and the need the particular type of establishment proposed.
- d. The uniqueness of the proposed facility when contrasted against other existing or proposed facilities, and the compatibility of the proposed facility to surrounding architecture and land use.
- e. The permanence of the establishment in the community, as evidenced by the prior or proposed contributions to the city or community by the applicant or business, and the extent to which the issuance of the license will assist in the further investment of the applicant or business in the city or the community.
- f. The character and extent of investment in improvements to the building, premises, and general area.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of the ownership transfer of a 2015 Class C & SDM Licensed Business with Sunday Sales Permit PM and New Dance Permit from Wasabi Japanese Sushi & Steakhouse, Inc. to Wasabi K & H, Inc., located at 42050 Grand River Avenue, Novi, MI 48375, because the business currently exists as a licensed premises and has done so without issue for a substantial period of time and provides a necessary service within the area and the new entity has no objectionable operational history.

	1	2	Y	N
Mayor Gatt				
Mayor Pro Tem Staudt				
Council Member Burke				
Council Member Casey				

	1	2	Y	N
Council Member Markham				
Council Member Mutch				
Council Member Wrobel				