



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of request to transfer ownership of an escrowed 2025 Class C license from J & CD, Inc. to Kim's Bap LLC, located at 43155 Main Street, Suite 300, Novi, MI 48375.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Kim's Bap LLC (dba Bi Bim Bab) offers Korean BBQ and bibimbab while allowing the customer to experience unique Korean culture.
- The addition of a liquor license will allow the restaurant to offer a dedicated Soju menu, a specialized menu of cocktails that are not available nearby.
- The restaurant will focus on a family-friendly atmosphere rather than a bar-centric one.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Kim Bap LLC requests to transfer ownership of an escrowed 2025 Class C license to allow them to continue to offer a unique and specific Korean BBQ menu and expand the experience with the addition of specialty cocktails that are not available in other Novi restaurants.

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.
 4. The impact of the establishment on city policing and code enforcement activities;
 5. The overall benefits of the proposed establishment to the city;
 6. The overall detriments of the proposed establishment to the city; and
 7. Any other factors that may affect the health, safety, and welfare relative to the need for and/or the convenience of the proposed establishment in the city.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of request to transfer ownership of an escrowed 2025 Class C license from J & CD, Inc. to Kim's Bap LLC, located at 43155 Main Street, Suite 300, Novi, MI 48375.. The business will be operated in the City in a manner consistent with City ordinances and will be in a location that continues to demonstrate a need for this particular type of establishment.