

MEMORANDUM



TO: CORTNEY HANSON, CITY CLERK
FROM: ERICK W. ZINSER *EZ*
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY / CHIEF OF POLICE
INITIATED BY: MICHAEL BENDER, DETECTIVE *MB*
SUBJECT: CLASS C LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER APPLICATION,
ICHIBAN JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE
DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2025

Liquor License Request:

Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse is requesting to transfer a Class C liquor license, which will be located at 42050 Grand River Avenue. This location was previously Wasabi Japanese Steakhouse, which ceased operation in July of 2025.

Applicant/Background Information:

The applicant, Chun Chen, has been in the restaurant business since he was 16 years old, and opened his first restaurant in 2008. It's success led to the opening of a second location in Sterling Heights. Building on his proven track record, he partnered with friends and family to launch two additional restaurants in 2023 and 2024. Over the past 17 years, Mr. Chen has successfully operated his own restaurants, building strong financial assets and reliable income streams to support the launch of his new venture. All four of his existing restaurants hold a Class C liquor license, with Mr. Chen actively overseeing bar operations as well.

Theme of Business:

At Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse, guests will have the opportunity to dine in hibachi dining rooms, where expertly trained chefs prepare meals tableside with skillful showmanship, or in their traditional dining area, which features a curated selection of sushi rolls and Japanese-inspired entrees prepared in their kitchen. A full-service bar will also be available, offering wine, beer, and sake.

Criminal History:

An ICHAT inquiry revealed no criminal history for the applicant.

Civil History:

A CLEAR inquiry revealed no civil history for the applicant.

Oakland County Treasurer's Office

There are no prior delinquent taxes at this location.

Financial Review:

Based upon the financial data provided by the applicant, no issues were found to prevent the liquor license application process from proceeding. The business will be purchased for \$70,000, which will be paid in full with business assets.

Summary:

Based on the information provided and the subsequent liquor investigation, I find no reason to deny the applicant's request. This request requires the approval of the Novi City Council.

C: Victor Cardenas, City Manager