

City of Somerville  
Licensing Commission

Regular Meeting by Remote Participation

**DRAFT OF THE**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, January 25, 2021**  
**Posted Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 2:15pm**

*The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm. Present were Commissioners, Lynch, Allen and Lindgren, Secretary to the Commission Lori Batzek, Lt. MacLaughlan, a member of the Fire Dept., Sgt. Chaille, a member of the Police Dept., City Clerk, John Long, Members of the City Staff, Applicants and members of the public.*  
*The meeting adjourned at 11:36pm*

*A recording of this meeting is available online*

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Licensing Commission's Minutes. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the data provided, do not rely on this information without first checking with the Secretary to the Licensing Commission.

Monday  
January 25, 2021  
6:00pm

Published January 15, 2021, at 6:00pm

Published January 21, 2021, at 5:00pm

Published January 25, 2021, at 4:40pm

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this meeting of the Licensing Commission will be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website.

Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to view this meeting live:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3495367668060459278>

If you wish to submit comments on any item on this agenda, you may send written comments by US mail to the Secretary of the Licensing Commission, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or by email to [ljbatzek@somervillema.gov](mailto:ljbatzek@somervillema.gov). Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the meeting, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Minutes of October 29, 2020 Special Meeting

*The Commission Approved these minutes*

2. Minutes of November 16, 2020 Regular Meeting

***The Commission Approved these minutes, except for item #10, Public Outdoor Seating (2<sup>nd</sup> motion). This item was read, but not voted on. To be continued to the February 22, 2021 Licensing Commission Meeting***

3. Notice from Governor Baker pertaining to the following: January 7, 2021, Governor Charlie Baker issued an Order extending the time period on the restriction on the number of patrons allowed in retail licensees' premises to 25% capacity limit. This includes licensees that sell alcohol for consumption both on- and off-premises. **These limits are now in effect until January 24, 2021, unless further extended by the Governor. Please note this Updated Advisory replaces and supersedes the ABCC's December 24, 2020 Advisory.** (Issued January 8, 2021) from the ABCC

*The Commission noted this communication and placed it on file*

- 3a. Notice from Governor Baker pertaining to the following: January 21, 2021, Governor Charlie Baker issued COVID-19 Order No. 62, an Order Further Extending Application of Additional Capacity Restrictions to Statewide COVID-19 Safety Rules and Rescinding Early Closing Requirements. **As of Monday, January 25, 2021, all retail alcohol licensees may resume sales and service of alcohol pursuant to the hours indicated on their licenses.**

Please be aware that all retail licensees are still restricted to a 25% capacity limit as explained in the ABCC's January 8, 2021, Advisory. **This restriction is extended until February 8, 2021.** (Issued January 22, 2021) from the ABCC.

*The Commission noted this communication and placed it on file*

- 3b. Communication from Mayor Curtatone's Office (dated January 25, 2021 at 2:23pm) pertaining Governor Baker's January 21, 2021 COVID-19 Order No. 62

Dear Licensing Chair Lynch,

For the purposes of today's commission meeting agenda, I wanted to communicate the city's current stance based on local health data.

While we have seen a minute decrease (1.9%) in our 14-day rolling average of daily incidence rate per 100,000 in the last 7 days and a modest decrease in our 14-day positivity percentage (less than 1 percentage point), we are still at critically high levels of daily incidence and prevalence high numbers. Our daily incidence rate is more than 5 times what it was at the beginning of November.

The current data does not warrant a change in our existing restrictions for restaurants and other industries. There are additional concerns about the emergence of more contagious variants and lagging vaccine distribution. We are not, until we have access to this week's 7-day report, in a position to recommend any easing of the current restrictions.

Please let me know if you have any questions or any items that you would like me to clarify.

All my best,

Omar

Omar Boukili  
Virtual EOC Director | Covid19 ICS - Incident Commander  
City of Somerville  
93 Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02143

*The Commission noted this communication and placed it on file*

## NEW Marijuana Retailer License

### Applications

4. The Harvest Club, 255 Elm St. requesting approval for a Group A Priority, NEW Marijuana Retailer License

Hours of Operation: No Hours of Operation listed on the application or documentation submitted. This is the Notice of a Public Hearing for this Item. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard. (ME20-000006)

***This is the Notice of a Public Hearing for this Item. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard.***

*Christopher Vining, Attorney Anne Vigorito, Paul Verruto, Alexander Coon, Andrew Matses and Stephen Siragusa appeared for this applicant. Mr. Vining provided a presentation on this application. Attorney Vigorito spoke about the positions held by each person, including Dan Quaile the lead architect and David Giangrande regarding the Traffic Study. This company was founded approximately 2 years ago. Mr. Vining is a member of the State's social equity program. The company is also pursuing a cultivation manufacturing and processing facility in Littleton. They plan to sell a variety of marijuana products approved by the CCC. Mr. Vining discussed the floor plan and believes there will be no waiting. He also discussed the community space being made available. The floor plan continued to be discussed. An art gallery and live music and live events will also be planned. Approximately 27 security cameras will provide viewing of the entire premises. 24/7 monitoring will be done both inside and outside the premises. A security team will be monitoring the inside premises during hours of operation. Items will not be branded to children. Somerville residents and disproportionate impact persons will be given preferential hiring preferences. Commissioner Allen had some questions about local hiring, and if an employee needed to move from the City of Somerville. Mr. Vining stated this was something they could work on. Commissioner Allen asked about delivery to the facility. Mr. Vining stated this would be handled during off hours and they have a loading zone in front of the premises. Exterior cameras will be installed facing the street. Commissioner Allen referenced a large marijuana theft at a dispensary in Boston, and asked why this could not happen at this facility. Mr. Vining didn't know the circumstances of their security, but is confident in his facilities security. Commissioner Allen asked how they would be managing queues and traffic during their initial opening. Mr. Vining stated this facility will not be open tomorrow and there will be additional operations opening. He also stated they will be open by appointment only for 30 days. And then come back to the Licensing Commission for approval of the hours of operation listed below. There will be express ordering and 1500 -2000 sq. ft. of waiting space to alleviate any queueing on the street. Commissioner Lindgren asked if the signage will be in other languages. Mr. Vining stated they would be in the languages that their products serve. Commissioner Lindgren is concerned about traffic and social distancing. Mr. Vining stated he believes 4800 sq. ft. is a very large dispensary and feels this is adequate for social distancing. Commissioner Lynch asked about the wages for employees. Mr. Vining stated \$15 is the wage paid for entry level employees or possibly a little higher than that. Commissioner Lindgren asked if any CBD products will be sold. Mr. Vining stated only State approved products will be sold. Chairman Lynch asked if a community meeting was held. Mr. Vining stated a meeting was held on January 7<sup>th</sup>, and an additional meeting was held on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The reason for 2 meetings was because they want to be very up front and open with the community and for ADA compliance. The January meeting had about 60 participants, but he did not know how many were residents, or staff of the applicants, Sira was also included in this meeting. The meeting was about 2.5 hours. Charlotte Leis stated the January meeting was a requirement due to the youth special permit. Preparation of minutes were required. Charlotte stated there were approximately 30-40 members of the public in attendance. Chairman Lynch asked Mr. Vining if Councilor Davis submitted any kind of documentation to him stating he was pleased with the meeting or if he had any issues with the application, and stated he did not see Councilor Davis in attendance for tonight's meeting and has not received any written comment from him. Mr. Vining stated that Councilor Davis made comments during both Harvest and Sira's presentation. The biggest concern seemed to be line mitigation and exterior windows and the Art to be displayed. Mr. Vining mentioned Councilor Davis's concern about the aesthetic of Davis Sq. art and the art displayed by CVS. Mr. Vining is open to different thought processes for the windows. A discussion was held about the public's response to the application at this meeting. Mr. Vining feels this idea has been very well received. Attorney Vigorito stated she was at the January meeting and she stated this application was well received by the community. Commissioner Lindgren suggested signage informing customers that smoking is not allowed in public. Due to ADA compliance, they were not able to submit their application to the CCC in January, but will probably submit in February. The plans submitted to the Licensing Commission are temporary plans and not yet approved. Chairman Lynch asked for an estimate of time until the application goes before the facility will open. Charlotte Leis stated submission to the ZBA will require a use special permit for cannabis retail sales from the planning board, and will also require minor site plan approval. To confirm, it's an administrative approval that the storefront complies with zoning. Charlotte Leis explained the process for the application and approval once submitted. Once the meetings are complete and all documents have been submitted, Charlotte estimates 65 days from that date to account for advertisement and the review process. Mr. Vining believes they will not be open until Q4, as the CCC will need to also approve this license. Construction will take 12-14 weeks. This is a Group A application, as a Somerville Resident. Mr. Vining owns 50% of the company. He plans to do a joint venture with a crowd funded vehicle that will be populated with Somerville residents, who are not accredited investors to make investments into the cannabis industry. Mr. Vining intends to use crowdfunding*

exemptions through the state, however if that effort is unsuccessful, he will still be in compliance with as a Priority A status application. Chairman Lynch asked if this type of funding has been allowed by the CCC previously. Mr. Vining replied no. Further discussion was held on this issue. Mr. Vining stated he had other funding available if this does not receive CCC approval. Chairman Lynch questioned the branding name of the business and asked if Mr. Vining may find a legal issue with the. Mr. Vining stated he did not.

Chairman Lynch stated that the commission has received multiple letters with comments pertaining to this application. He also asked if Mr. Vining felt it is his responsibility as a recreational marijuana operator to have some type of community association of recreational operators in the city, that share information on how to alleviate some of the problems that he may have with the community, such as a Community Advisory Board. Mr. Vining felt this was a good idea and he would welcome being a member of this type of board. Outside cameras and rear access to the building were discussed. Chairman Lynch expressed concern that sometime loading zones are removed by the City. Mr. Vining stated if this occurred, he would use best practices at all times. Mr. Vining stated unmarked vehicles will be used for delivering products, and no one inside will be armed. Commissioner Lindgren asked about delivery of product and ordering online. Mr. Vining stated online orders will be taken, however, delivery of the product is a different, separate license, and he will be looking into that in the future. Commissioner Allen asked for some crowd funding clarification. Mr. Vining stated this would only be available to Somerville residents. Ownership percentage thresholds were discussed.

### **Public Comments**

Allison Howe spoke on this matter. She lives about a block and a half from where this establishment will be. She stated she has concerns that the city has a fair number of homeless individuals and worries that this establishment could increase this number. She was impressed with the presentation. She asked how long Mr. Vining has lived in Somerville. Mr. Vining replied he has lived in Somerville for the past year. Mr. Vining is looking to make Somerville his long term home. Mr. Vining expounded on Community involvement and taxes and fees that will be paid to help the homeless population.

Derrick Rice spoke on this matter. He is a resident of Craigie St. He attended the community meeting and wanted to speak in support of this application. He stated that someone was stuffing mailboxes with a pamphlet calling for protest of these applicants and two of the bolded comments at the top of the pamphlet were, do you care about your children and do you want your property value to drop. He feels this is a privileged view. Mr. Rice feels both the creative use of community space and equity concerns brought up at the community meeting were above and beyond other applications heard.

Jess Liborio spoke on this matter. She is a neighbor on Bowers Ave. behind the Goodwill. She received an abutter notice from Sira but nothing specific about Harvest. She submitted a letter to the commission regarding her concerns of 4 establishments in Davis Sq. and the profits made by the establishments. She does not support more than 1 license for this area.

Stephen Mackey, President of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce spoke on this matter. He is in favor of this proposal. He believes this is capable ownership. They are very familiar with the community in the business district. They have paid a great deal of attention things and the design is noteworthy. The attention to social equity and those concerns make them stand out.

Christina, Steven Kwong's wife, spoke on this matter. She is a neighbor at Bowers Ave. She agrees with what Jessie said earlier. Her property is 1-2 minutes away from both Harvest and Sira. She states we do not need 4 retail stores in such a small area. There are lots of children and families in this area. She is probably against this. She states a violent act was perpetrated at her property. She also believes traffic will be problematic. She states she is publicly against this.

Chairman Lynch states, we currently have 1 approved provisionally license from last year for the Davis Sq. Area. This evening there are 2 applications before the commission for approval, for the Davis Sq. Area. Chairman Lynch states members of the public are stating there are 4 recreational marijuana licenses for the Davis Sq. Area, please keep in mind that the commission has not seen a 4<sup>th</sup> application for the Davis Sq. Area.

Jose Comenares had his hand raised, but did not speak on this matter.

Mr. Vining replied to the speakers on this matter. He states there are 4 liquor stores in the area and there have been no issues. He also states Design Consultants was commissioned for a traffic study, and the customers that intend to come to his facility will be foot traffic, bike traffic and public transportation, and the traffic study provides evidence of that. Chairman Lynch asked if this study was submitted in Citizen Serve. Charlotte Leis stated 2 applications would have been submitted to Citizen Serve, one for Zoning and one for Licensing Commission approval. The traffic study is required for zoning approval. It may not have been to the Licensing Commission. Attorney Vigorito stated she believed it was submitted for Planning & Zoning. Chairman Lynch stated the first three applicants submitted a traffic study to the Licensing Commission as a courtesy to let the commission know what problem there may be because the members of the public are concerned about traffic. The commission's

policy is to look at this study, even though the commission cannot approve or deny the application based on the traffic study. Chairman Lynch is requesting a copy of the traffic study be provided to the commission.

Commission Allen asked Mr. Vining if he planned on providing his employees with MBTA passes as part of their package. Mr. Vining answered yes and they will have bike storage in the back as well.

Chairman Lynch stated he needed clarification of a few things. He stated he needed to see the hours and days on the application. The secretary stated there is no process at the moment to put this information on the Licensing Commission Application. A request has been put in to City Clerk John Long to allow the addition of Hours and Days of Operation. Chairman Lynch asked if Mr. Vining has a fully executed Host Community Agreement. Mr. Vining replied yes. Charlotte Leis stated there was a minor edit made on the round 2 Host Community Agreements that permitted changes in amount of ownership that do not trigger the 10% CCC requirement. If you have a 1% owner and they leave, and a different 1% owner comes in, that does not revoke the Host Community Agreement, that change was made in part two. Charlotte Leis stated Harvest Club does have a fully executed Host Community Agreement, it is available online and she will send it to City Clerk John Long and/or Secretary Lori Batzek.

Chairman Lynch asks the following questions, If the CCC does not approve this ownership, does the applicant need to get Licensing Commission Approval for different ownership? This will need to be determined by the commission. Are there any restrictions to being near a house of worship? Mr. Vining stated he believed this restriction was removed. Chairman Lynch asked if there were any restrictions being next to a playground. Mr. Vining replied there were no issues with this particular site. Chairman Lynch asked these questions due to the comments being received on marijuana retail license applications, and proximity to playgrounds, churches and primarily the proximity of potentially three recreational marijuana stores within the Davis Sq. business district. He would like the public to be aware of any restrictions Chairman Lynch recommended the commission start deliberating on this application.

Commissioner Allen stated the Marijuana Overlay is a thing of the past, with the adoption of the new zoning ordinance. All marijuana related zoning can now be found there. He stated this leads into discussing what are the criterion that the licensing commission uses, and that these were given to the commission by the City Council. There are a couple of points that are relevant and germane to the commission. An inventory of locally and regionally grown products, employment of local residence, offering competitive wages and benefits, use of sustainable and green renewable energy practices and quality of relationship with the community. The commission does not look at vicinity of competing businesses. The commission does not look at zoning. Zoning is addressed before the Planning Board. Zoning is already factor for the marijuana advisory committee, and at least one application was denied, because they were not in compliance with the new zoning ordinance. He stated the site plan looked great and the applicant did the best they could with the restrictions that cmr 935 places on the applicant in terms of how the storefront has to look. After a few additional comments, Commissioner Allen stated is generally in favor of this proposal.

Commissioner Lindgren stated she concurs. The proposal is sound and the applicant was very thoughtful and was very well planned. She has some concerns about the number of stores in a small area, but stated the commission is not in charge of zoning and did not make those decisions. Commissioner Lindgren states other than that, she would approve this license.

Commissioner Allen stated the applicant proposed a 30 day by appointment only. The commission may extend that time frame with the caveat if after a month's time there are no issues, to come back to the Licensing Commission to revisit these hours.

Mr. Vining stated this information was on the document he submitted with the hours of operation.

Chairman Lynch stated he is not ready to approve with conditions. After reading the comments submitted by the community, there appears to be a split about who is saying what to whom. He feels it is incumbent on the applicant to straighten out any misconceptions. He also stated it appears someone doesn't want marijuana shops in Davis Sq. and referenced the paperwork put in resident's mailboxes with misinformation. Chairman Lynch still has some documents to read, and would like to see the host community agreement. He also would like to see how the ownership of this entity is handled if the crowd funding is not approved by the secretary of state or the CCC. He also stated there have been complaints filed against certain applicants and the CCC, however, not Somerville applications. Chairman Lynch asked if public performances will be held in the front area. Mr. Vining replied not. It will be a static art display, which they will seek approval for the street facing windows. No live music will be played. A board will be provided for notices of Somerville performances only. Additional discussion was held on the community and art space. Mr. Vining stated if the crowd funding is not approved, they will go with another plan for financing.

Commission Allen believes the commission may be getting caught up in the details of the crowd funding, and stated we have rules in place for ownership and control on this matter. Mr. Vining stated he want to use the crowd funding to remove the accreditation requirement, for social equity purposes to allow people who may not be able to

enter into this industry, to have an opportunity. Chairman Lynch asked about how the management would be structured with so many other investors. How will policy will be designated and structured. Mr. Vining replied through the licensee, the Harvest Club.

Commissioner Allen stated there was nothing currently in the proposal for crowd funding and recommended, and perhaps specifically require, in order to move forward on this matter, to have the applicant come before the licensing commission again to discuss it, when ready to be rolled out. Additional discussed followed.

A discussion was held on the conditions of providing provisional approval. The traffic study is one. Chairman Lynch stated the commission has to listen very carefully to the community. At least 3 of the written comments express fears about congregating in front of the building with cues, with lines. The applicant has stated a preference for 30 days by appointment only. Chairman Lynch stated he does not know when the other recreational marijuana licensees, with provisional approval will be open. If this applicant opens in late summer or early fall, and is the only establishment open and selling recreational marijuana, there will be a problem on the sidewalk in front of the establishment, which will affect other businesses. Chairman Lynch stated he was not comfortable with a 30 day by appointment only, and suggested a 6 month period. The applicant could then come to the licensing commission for reconsideration. Mr. Vining agreed.

The commission Provisionally approved this Marijuana Retail License with the following conditions:

1. The business shall be run by appointment only for the first six months, after the issuing of the license, with the proviso, that the applicant may come back to the licensing commission to request a shorter period.
2. Any change to the ownership structure utilizing crowdfunding platforms or advertising for purchase by non-accredited investors shall require approval by the licensing commission.

The hours of operation will be listed as Mon.-Sat. 10am-9pm & Sun.11am-5pm

The Secretary entered into the record: An email was received on 1/21/21 pertaining to the proposed hours of operation:

Mon –Sat.: 10am-9pm and Sun.: 11am-5pm

Mr. Vining stated he would upload the traffic study and CHA to the licensing side on Citizen Serve.

5. Revolutionary Clinics II Inc., 67 Broadway requesting approval for a Group B Priority, NEW Marijuana Retailer License  
Hours of Operation: Mon. – Sat. 9:00am – 9:00pm & Sun. 10:00am – 5:00pm  
This is the Notice of a Public Hearing for this Item. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard.  
(ME20-000007)

***This is the Notice of a Public Hearing for this Item. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard.***

Attorney Anne Vigorito, John Grennon, Jonathan Capano, Keith Cooper, Tom Schneider, Brad Miller, Stephen Siragusa and Bruce Hampton appeared for this application. Attorney Vigorito spoke about the positions held by each person. Mr. Cooper provided a presentation. A Summary of the Qualifications for AU Cannabis was provided. Mr. Cooper stated they have operated a medical dispensary in Somerville for over 3 years. They also have a cannabis factory in the state and produce products sold in 40 MA stores. This is a MA only company. Mr. Cooper stated his company's retail employees are over 70% Minority and female and they pay 20% higher than average wages starting at \$19.35 an hour for an entry level position plus benefits. Somerville residents are employed by this company and they have invested over \$1,000,000 to improve the existing business building. Mr. Cooper stated they will be converting the adjacent 5 car garage to expand the dispensary. He also stated they have twice as many parking spaces as required. He stated they will implement an appointment only based system, as discussed on the previous application heard. Mr. Cooper spoke about the company's Community Involvement and Commitments and discussed what they were. Mr. Cooper spoke about Rev Clinics' Community Outreach manager. He also described the ASPIRE program, across the state, to help other businesses and they will be expanding this program in 2021. Mr. Cooper explained the Security Systems, Policies and Procedures that will be in place. Chairman Lynch asked about the existing security and new security. Mr. Cooper explained that the existing security is already in place for the Medical Dispensary. Additional security implementations will be provided for the Retail space, similar to what is already in place. Mr. Grennon spoke about the security and that it exceeds the requirements. He also spoke about his security company's interaction with the Somerville Police Department. Chairman Lynch asked about the external camera's pointing towards residences around the establishment, and have abutting neighbors stated cameras are pointed at their properties. Mr. Cooper stated not to his knowledge. Mr. Grennon stated none of the camera's pointed toward resident's windows and provided details on this matter. Commissioner Lindgren stated she is familiar with this property. Commission Allen stated he had questions about the difference between the Medical and Retail operations. He stated that he wanted to ensure that the applicant is cognizant and in compliance with maintain the 2 separate businesses. He noted that the website can be used to see

all the current existing operations and products. He asked what the specific differences would be, between the products for Medicinal and Recreational use. Mr. Cooper stated that the only difference would be that there are certain medical products which have higher doses than are allowed for adult use. Adult use has a limit of 100 milligrams per package, and 5 milligrams per dose of THC. An example would be a chocolate bar, with 20 squares, each square could be 5 milligrams THC for a total of 100 milligrams. A medical chocolate bar could be 800 milligrams of THC, and there are people who need that dosage for pain medication. He stated that over time, a tolerance can be built up. Commissioner Allen referenced cmr 935, 500-105 which is about packaging design, specifically the area that stipulates no bright colors and existing comparisons, any existing branded consumer products and particularly, it cannot be named after imitating or having a semblance to existing products including food and beverages that do not contain marijuana. Commissioner Allen stated that some of the items currently listed on their website, Chocolate Orange, Charlotte's Web, Apple Cider Doughnut bar, and he asked if Mr. Cooper thought that those were compatible with the recreational or adult use requirements. Mr. Cooper stated that each one would be reviewed by the CCC and they will make sure each and every product is in compliance with adult use regulations. A discussion was held on how the products are approved by the CCC and then sold. Commissioner Allen had some questions about edibles and stated some consumers can get into potential trouble. He asked how the educational campaigns help with this issue and what tools would be used for new customers who aren't familiar with this product. Mr. Cooper stated there is information on the website, there is a new customer brochure about dosages, including edibles, including regulatory limits and what they would recommend. There are 4 employee's who answer questions, 3 are full time. Chairman Lynch asked the date of the community meeting. Mr. Cooper replied, November 17<sup>th</sup>, and then a neighborhood meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup>. There were approximately 20-25 attendees, not affiliated with his company. He stated there were some really good questions, about traffic, security and so forth, and he thought it went well. The CCC application was filed on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Lynch asked about the ownership. Mr. Cooper replied, there are almost 200 individual investors, there is 1 majority owner with 10% ownership. Chairman Lynch asked if an additional Host Community was needed for the recreational license. Mr. Cooper replied, yes and stated it had been executed. Chairman Lynch requested a copy of this from Charlotte Leis. She stated she would send them this evening. Commissioner Lindgren stated all the Host Community Agreements were sent to the Commission by email this evening, by the secretary. Chairman Lynch asked if this company had any goals in trying to hire Somerville employees. Mr. Cooper stated he would like to have 15%, or more and will be hiring 20 additional employees. Starting wages are \$19.35 an hour. Covid protocols are in place. Delivery is through a window. Zoning was discussed. Attorney Vigorito stated a youth special permit is needed as well as site plan approval. This matter is going before the urban design committee, tomorrow, this is a requirement for site plan approval, another neighborhood meeting is required before proceeding to the planning board. Chairman Lynch asked if the offices upstairs will take away from parking. Mr. Cooper stated no employee's use parking on site. A discussion was held about community involvement in Somerville and Cambridge. A discussion was held about youth education as well. Outreach is done by Gary Perry, approximately 75% in Cambridge, they have 2 stores in this city. Gary also helps this business find people in the community who need a break, to employ. Further discussion followed. Also discussed was the concern that some medical marijuana patients have issues with services of both medical and recreational marijuana. Mr. Cooper stated privacy is very important and that is why his company has 2 separate sides to this business. A discussion on this matter followed. Commissioner Allen asked if there had been any complaints or issues of diversion during their 3 years of operation. Mr. Cooper relied no.

#### **Public Comment**

*Liam Wang spoke on this matter. He lives on Wall St., 2 minutes from Davis Sq. He says he has no problems with these dispensaries with regard to the number of stores and feels they are probably better than liquor stores, convenience stores selling cigarettes without the security that these folks have. This application has his full support.*

*Stephen Mackey, President of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce spoke on this matter. He states this is outstanding ownership management, a wonderfully diverse workforce, 3 years of exceptional performance and operations, an attractive physical plant and community presence. He stated he believes overall the aspiration for best in class in the nation is to be applauded and admired Especially with the evidence in their 1<sup>st</sup> 3 years of operation. He is in favor of this proposal.*

*Everett Liborio spoke on this matter. He lives nearby. He is not too happy about this site they want to open. He stated they also talk about Harvest, also they're going to open one. He feels it's too many retail stores, because there is a lot of traffic in Davis Sq. and other issues related to parking and etc, etc.*

*Eric Schwartz spoke on this matter. He stated that it was interesting that a Somerville Official, he believes previously made the comment that Revolutionary Clinics was best in class, with the Somerville city commerce department, if he's not mistaken. He stated he wanted to go on public record, that this is the same company that did sue the City of Cambridge over an equitable ordinance and they lost, which he believes was the second of their court cases, this one being an appeals court case that actually upheld, Chapter 94g, Section 3 specifically. He stated that as much as the Curatone administration and people that work for him want to make sure this goes swimmingly and puts this through, he just wants to make sure that the people of Somerville know. He stated he*

wanted to go on record that we do have a company here that has literally sued Cambridge, that is, obviously the city right next to Somerville. He stated he would leave it at that, and hopefully he made his point.

Allyson Hartzell spoke on this matter. She is a Somerville resident and homeowner. She is a medical user. She does know about this situation that the previous person talked about. She feels that expanding this place is the right thing to do. She supports Mr. Cooper and his business. She states his business has always helped her medically and some people know about this, and it doesn't really change her opinion.

Chairman Lynch stated this correction: One of the commenters, stated a Somerville official made a comment on this matter, that is an incorrect statement. The gentleman's name, Stephen Mackey is the President of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce, he is not a City of Somerville official.

Chairman Lynch asked Mr. Cooper if he received any indication from Councilor McLaughlin, either written or verbal about his opinion on this application. Mr. Cooper stated Councilor McLaughlin has been supportive of his business for the last three years. He attended the neighborhood meeting he had on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and stayed for the entire meeting. Mr. Cooper stated he has nothing in writing, but would say Councilor McLaughlin is supportive.

Commissioner Allen supports this application. Commissioner Lindgren supports this application.

Chairman Lynch asked Mr. Cooper is a Traffic Study was required. Mr. Cooper replied yes, but it requires a little more work to complete. Chairman Lynch asked if the traffic study provided for the medical marijuana license was accurate. Mr. Cooper replied it was quite accurate.

Attorney Vigorito confirmed a traffic study is required. Chairman Lynch stated we will obtain a copy from the city once it has been submitted.

Chairman Lynch asked Mr. Coopers' feeling about by appointment only. Mr. Cooper felt 6 months is a long time, but he agreed with the previous caveat instituted for the previous applicant.

The commission Provisionally approved this Marijuana Retail License with the following conditions:

1. The business shall be run by appointment only for the first six months, after the issuing of the license, with the proviso, that the applicant may come back to the licensing commission to request a shorter period.

6. Sira Naturals, 240 Elm St. requesting approval for a Group B Priority, NEW Marijuana Retailer License  
Hours of Operation: Mon. – Sub. 10:00am – 8:00pm  
This is the Notice of a Public Hearing for this Item. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard.  
(ME20-000008)  
**This is the Notice of a Public Hearing for this Item. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard.**

Attorney Sean O'Donovan, David Rosenberg, Michelle Foley, David Shwartzter, Dwan Packnett, Jefferson Smith, Stephen Siragusa and Jim Kingdon appeared for this application. Attorney O'Donovan stated this establishment has a medical marijuana license in the City of Somerville, would like to co-locate this retail establishment and there have been no issues since opening in 2017. He also stated the applicant went before the MAC for an adult retail license and received a 14.5 out of 15 potential points. Attorney O'Donovan stated once approved by the Licensing Commission, they will proceed to the planning board, then to the CCC and then back to the Licensing Commission for the license issuance. He spoke about the positions held by each person in the company. A traffic study was done and uploaded in Citizen Serve. He also stated the application meets cmr 935, 501. He also stated they employ 22 employees and they are the first and only cannabis company in Massachusetts to voluntarily turn their work force into unionized labor. Chairman Lynch asked if they had a Host Community Agreement. Attorney O'Donovan replied yes and it is posted in Citizen Serve. The community meeting was held on January 7<sup>th</sup> with Harvest. Attorney O'Donovan estimate approximately 30-70 people in attendance, but referenced Charlotte Leis statement earlier that there were 30-40 neighbors in attendance. They have not yet filed with the CCC, due to an ADA issue, a community meeting will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month for ADA compliance, and will file with the CCC subsequent to this meeting. Chairman Lynch asked if there were any zoning issues. Attorney O'Donovan replied no, and as a medical dispensary they are already up and running, however, they need to be issued a condition to use permit. Mr. Rosenberg provided a presentation. The discussion included an explanation of Why Davis Sq. He stated Somerville overwhelmingly voted for cannabis legalization 76% compared to Massachusetts 54%. The recreational sales would be alongside the medical practice. Mr. Rosenberg wanted to state for the record, that there have been some rumors circulated about Sira as well as anonymous flyer being distributed concerning their application. He stated they do remain fully committed to serving their patients in Somerville and will never alter their commitment to continue serving their medical customers and any attempt to say otherwise is simply false and misleading. He also stated the CCC frequently uses their locations as training grounds for new



inspectors to show them what a good operation should look like. He stated that the space is modest, conspicuous, safe and secure. There will be no queuing or lines, now or in the future. Customer wait times have been reduced from 15 minutes to an average of 3-5 minutes, while adhering to Covid protocols. He explained the floor plan and Customer Flow. Ms. Packnett spoke about Community Engagement for Equity and Social Justice. She spoke about Community Investment and the Community Action Agency of Somerville. Ms. Packnett also spoke about their Employment Plan, being the first Cannabis Union Employer in Mass., Benefits, Creation of UFCW Cannabis Apprenticeship Program and Implementing local hiring preference for Somerville residents. Ms. Foley spoke about their Experienced Security and Operations Team, CCC Inspectors Training at Sira Natural's Facilities, their focus on keeping neighborhoods safe & preserving Public Health and their successful compliance record. She also discussed their Prevention of Diversion Plan, including restricted access to Sira facilities and preventing diversion to minors. She spoke about Product Delivery & Transportation of Cash, the safe delivery of Cannabis products and the safe and secure transportation of cash deposits. Also discussed was Transportation to the facility. Walking, biking and public transit are expected to be used. Sira will subsidize MBTA Passes and Blue Bikes membership for employees.

Chairman Lynch remarked on this company having no infractions from the Somerville Police Department. He stated that the owner of the building has some issues with other tenants, in terms of dumpster removal, trash and certain deliveries. Chairman Lynch suggested Sira Natural have a discussion with the landlord. Chairman Lynch has toured this facility a few years ago, and was impressed with the layout and security procedures. He asked about the side door entrance, and he did not recall this. Attorney O'Donovan stated this was part of the ZBA approval in the Spring of 2017. He also stated this entrance is primarily used for ADA compliance reasons. Commissioner Allen asked about the intercom system and camera at this entrance. Ms. Foley stated that this was correct, the elevator is located on the left, when you enter on Chestnut St., and this brings ADA customers to the subterranean facility. Commissioner Allen asked about the intercom system and camera at this entrance. Ms. Foley stated they have the same setup with the camera, the intercom system and the buzzer at both entrances, on the Chester St. and the Elm St. entrances. Commissioner Allen asked what the main differences would be on their web page between the medical customers' and recreational customers' products. Ms. Foley replied that the biggest difference is the dosage, specifically around edibles, on the medical side, the dosage goes much higher. She also stated she knows the question came up on a previous application, on packaging, and using bright colors and such, and she stated all packaging is approved by the CCC and regulators are in their store frequently. Chairman Lynch asked about the higher dosages. Ms. Foley responded that a dosage of 500 or 600 + edibles, would mostly be for cancer patients or really severe pain. Commissioner Allen asked about their statement of hiring targets for a variety of demographics, and asked if there were any numbers for the actual goals in terms of new employees this is going to bring on, and of those how many they're aiming to hire locally. Ms. Packnett responded as a floor they are looking at 35% Somerville residents, but that is a floor. Commissioner Lindgren stated that they are probably one of the more well-known medical dispensaries, and believes they will probably get a lot of traffic/customers for the adult use marijuana. She mentioned that they stated, service by appointment only, and asked if they are planning to do in terms of signage for those people that may be trying to walk in. Ms. Foley replied they do not currently have appointment signage but that's definitely something they could put outside on their signage. She also stated they currently have Covid signage on their front door and could add that. They have staff stations to check for appointments, if someone shows up without an appointment, they would be turned away. Commissioner Lindgren stated she had seen public comment, maybe by letter, stating worries about the use of products in the neighborhood. She asked if they had any signage or messaging pertaining to this on their website or at their location. Ms. Foley replied that they do have handouts that's part of the literature they provide to all current patients and security staff do monitor the perimeter of the building, along with cameras. Commissioner Lindgren stated that there appeared to be a separation between the medical and retail space. Ms. Foley agreed. Commissioner Lindgren stated that patient privacy would seem to be covered. Ms. Foley agreed and stated that the only thing not showing on the floor plan is a private consultation room they have for patients, if they choose to have a consultation. Chairman Lynch asked how they will make the community in Davis Sq. comfortable with multiple recreational marijuana sites. Mr. Rosenberg replied that this was a very good question and a difficult one. There are several things, number 1, they believe in engaging the community and Dwan Packnett can approach that. He believes that it is all about educating the community, and thinks that the marijuana space, specifically, has been given a lot of bad press, because of what happened in Brookline, originally with the line forming, as essentially the only recreational facility east of the Mississippi open. But he feels with more dispensaries opening, 52 in Boston alone, and these will be neighborhood businesses just like every other neighborhood business. They have no problems there now and they will continue to use the same processes and institute new ones as necessary. Ms. Packnett explained what they are doing for neighborhood advocacy. They have a program You Can't Be What You Can't Be Program, which deals with the stigma of cannabis. She states they are going into communities, and they have modules and discussion points, and they are working with the Somerville Media Center to make it more interesting. She also stated that this is very difficult. Chairman Lynch asked for thoughts about an Advisory Board and what is the thought in the Cannabis industry about associations or Advisory Boards or are they operating independently from each other. Mr. Rosenberg replied that there are a couple of industry organizations which they could be involved in, but they are all competitors too, however, they feel it is their responsibility, in order to be a good community member to consult with local community members. Chairman Lynch referenced the letters and emails received from the community, stating that Davis Sq. cannot support 4 recreational marijuana sites without problems. Chairman Lynch wants to advise, that anybody who is looking to locate within Somerville's small business districts with the same product, that it might be advantageous to come up with some kind of unified approach to allaying those fears of the

community, because each applicant has a different approach on how they do that. He also stated that we do not have a legislative tool to regulate buffer zones in between the recreational marijuana sites, City Council, when crafting the legislation did not want to do this. Mr. Rosenberg agreed this is a good idea.

#### **Public Comment**

*James Fleming spoke on this matter. He is a Business Agent with IBEW Local 103. He is in strong support for Sira Naturals and states they are a good neighbor and employer in the City, committed to hiring local residents and paying them living wages and benefits.*

*Lincoln Taggart spoke on this matter. He is the Acting Executive Director at Community Action Agency of Somerville. He states Sira has been a fantastic partner and he would like to reinforce how committed they are to Somerville. In 2019 his agency was seeking to fill a large funding gap for their housing advocacy program and Sira invested \$51,000 over 3 years. This directly resulted in 75 residents avoiding eviction, 22 residents obtaining safe and affordable housing, 50 residents increasing their net worth, primarily through enrollment and public benefits and 15 residents increasing food security. Sira also had an additional investment of \$10,000 in the Somerville Cares Fund, recently, which resulted in emergency assistance reaching approximately 43 Somerville residents affected by the pandemic. Their most recent investment of \$150,000 pledged, was the same, vitalizing poverty work for years to come. He also stated Sira works with a low profile and a high degree of professionalism.*

*Linda Champion spoke on this matter. She stated she considers herself a Somerville resident because when she was a homeless teen, Somerville was the 1<sup>st</sup> place she landed, where she was able to get housing. She is a former prosecutor, half Korean, half Black. Her connection to Sira is through David Rosenberg, she cold called him about 10 years ago to help her bridge the divide between the Asian American and Black Communities, through music Mr. Rosenberg helped Ms. Champion build a music camp and music room at Boston Chinatown neighborhood center. She discussed the impact this had on the community.*

*Yvette Wilks spoke on this matter. She states she lived in Somerville, in Davis Sq. for over 18 years and raised her children there. She is an active member of the Somerville Media Center, producing a hip hop festival. She would like to reduce the stigma of what individuals view, the cannabis world about. One of her collaborations is to build the entrepreneur mindset mentor program. She is very excited being involved with this organization.*

*Eric Schwartz spoke on this matter. He would like to go on record as a Somerville resident that he doesn't have any concern about a cluster of retail shops in Davis Sq. He states its business, and the shops that do well for their customers, will do well. He also stated the organizations coming in will always be about restorative justice, so he looks forward to the programs that Sira Naturals will support in regards to restorative justice, in terms of the war on drugs. His primary testimony this evening, as a resident, he states that he has zero concern about a cluster of retail shops in Davis Sq.*

*Jody Mendoza spoke on this matter. She is a former Somerville resident, and lived on Properzi Way. She states after completing college, she moved to Davis Sq. for a long period of time, and knows and loves Somerville. She has economic empowerment certification and a provisional license in Boston granted by the CCC. She states one of the reason she was able to receive a provisional license is due to Sira, and that she is part of Sira's accelerator program. She states that getting a license is really difficult. She explained some of the process and how Sira helped her. She can vouch for their commitment to equity inclusion and believes they are a fantastic company.*

*Fabrico Dasilva spoke on this matter. He is the Secretary/Treasurer for UFCW Local 1445 which represents over 400 members who live in the Somerville Area. He states this union represents Sira Naturals and represents the workers. He is speaking positively in relation to Sira Naturals, as a union which represents many members in the community, and would like to encourage companies that participate in unions. He also states he would like to see companies pay good wages, have good benefits and would like workers to have representation, and Sira stand for this. Mr. Dasilva says wages, benefits, pensions and healthcare are important.*

*Stephen Mackey of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce spoke on this matter. He also lives in Somerville and is happy to support this proposal. He stated this is a great neighbor, with 3 years for a track record, and have been safe and secure. He also stated they stand out in terms of their policies on diversity and inclusion, they are outstanding when it comes to labor and management and also across the board in community engagement. He hopes this application prevails.*

*Richard Harding spoke on this matter. He is with Green Soul Organics. He states he believes they are the only Group A Priority applicant that has gone through the MAC process to be licensed as an equity applicant in Davis Square. He states that he understands there's a groundswell of community concern about having multiple operators in the square, as the only Priority A applicant who has gone through the process and negotiated an HCA, he hopes the commission will take into consideration that equity has to be the cornerstone of any true cannabis industry in the City of Somerville or the state. He would like the commission to pay close attention to the track record of Sira Naturals, as it relates to equity in the cannabis industry. He states he is probably the chief proponent of the Cambridge suit in which Revolutionary Clinics and Sira Naturals, in Cambridge, fought with furious intent to stop the most progressive equity policy that could be articulated through the local governments. That case, as*

*pointed out by someone earlier, was lost in the courts through all of the procedures. He states he wants to make sure that it is known that Chairman Lynch often asks about track records. He states that he believes in Cambridge, Sira had a cease and desist order, and he wants to make sure the commission is checking into the actual ownership, he asks is it the Canadian Strategic Corp. or is it the people speaking today. Mr. Harding stated we can't have the hypocrisy, hypocrisy has no greater friend than anybody who allows inequity to thrive, and he hopes the commission will take this into consideration.*

*Shaun Murphy spoke on this matter. He is the Vice President and Business Agent for UFCW Local 1445. He states he fully supports this measure. He referenced reiterated comments made by Mr. Dasilva. He also spoke about community service this union does in Somerville.*

*Jess Liborio spoke on this matter. She is an abutter to Sira and is also a union member and appreciates their labor practices. She states she understands each application is reviewed separately on its own merits, but feels compelled to say, it makes sense for multiple Somerville bodies to consider the number of establishments in the neighborhood, Somerville is really small, and states it was good to hear from Richard Harding of Green Soul. She states we don't know enough about how 3 or 4 establishments will affect things, and referenced the Brookline dispensary, and that they still have lines. She appreciates the questions raised, but doesn't feel they have been answered.*

*Chairman Lynch stated that Sira is o.k. with zoning and does not violate any regulations pertaining to distance from schools. Chairman Lynch stated people have been discussing the ownership and asked Mr. Rosenberg to describe the ownership. Mr. Rosenberg stated they are owned by a publicly traded company, and discussed how and why that occurred. Mr. Rosenberg also stated that they did not participate in Cambridge, in any lawsuit and that the person who called in and stated this, had his facts wrong, and that they were the dispensary that did not participate in the lawsuit. He stated that out of the 17 original companies that were granted marijuana licenses, when it was medical only, only 3 of those companies were still locally managed, and that they are one of the three. The same people with the exception of one board member were on the board when they founded the company, and that they're still on the board today. Local people, Mass. Residents who have been doing business in Mass. for decades, 4 of them, control the board, out of 5. One person from the public company, Jonathan Sandalman, sits on the board, and they cannot be removed from the board because they control the board. When they merged with the public company, none of them took any profit. He noted the previous applicants have multiple investors. Chairman Lynch asked who controls Sira Naturals as a publicly traded company and where are they publicly traded out of. Mr. Rosenberg replied, out of Canada, there is no U.S. public marijuana company, because it's still federally illegal, and stated the board controls Sira. A discussion was held about Jonathan Sandalman's ownership, as 10% or more, and who actually manages the company. Chairman Lynch explained how the licensing will be distributed. No Group B applicant can be licensed until a Group A applicant is up and running. He explained this was due to local legislation for economic empowerment purposes.*

*Chairman Lynch asked Mr. Rosenberg about sales by appointment only. Mr. Rosenberg stated he thought it was smart to do so for a period of time, until they could see what the traffic will bear, and he does not have a problem with this. Chairman Lynch referenced the email received about how many establishments are enough in Davis Sq. and doesn't feel that can be settled by the commission and is not part of the city legislation because there is no buffer zone.*

*The commission Provisionally approved this Marijuana Retail License with the following conditions:*

- 1. The business shall be run by appointment only for the first six months, after the issuing of the license, with the proviso, that the applicant may come back to the licensing commission to request a shorter period.*

**Continued from November 16, 2020**  
**No appearance made for the below meeting**

**Common Victualled and**  
**Entertainment by Devices License**

7. Sinev LLC d/b/a Zaruma Gold Coffee  
27 Woodbine St.  
Vladislav Sinev  
(AL20-20-000021)

***This is the Notice of a Public Hearing for this Item. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard.***

*Maria Tacuri appeared for this application. Ms. Tacuri stated she and her husband will be running this establishment. This will be a coffee shop in a new building, at the corner of Woodbine and Lowell. They will have ambience music through a speaker with Jazz music playing. Their hours of operation will be mon-Sun 7am.- 7pm*

*They have a Covid plan in place.*

*The commission approved this Common Victualler and Entertainment by Devices License*

**Continued from November 16, 2020**  
**No appearance made for the below meeting**

**Existing License**  
**Private License**  
**All Forms Alcohol**  
**Pledge of License**

8. Demeter Hospitality, LLC d/b/a Daddy Jones, 525 Medford St. requesting the approval of a Pledge of License to Enterprise Bank and Trust Company, 76 Bedford St., Lexington, MA 02140  
(ALM20-000167)

*Dimitra Murphy appeared for this application. Ms. Murphy stated she refinanced and collateral is required.*

*The commission approved this Pledge of License*

**Continued from November 16, 2020**

**TRANSFER OF LICENSE**  
**Private License**  
**Transfer of a Wine & Malt Package Store License**  
**And Change of Location**

9. Jai Gitanjali, LLC d/b/a Get N Go, 152 Highland Ave. requesting the approval of a Transfer of a Wine & Malt Package Store License from La Internacional Food Corp. at 318 Somerville Ave. to Jai Gitanjali, LLC d/b/a Get N Go at 152 Highland Ave.  
(AL20-000025)

*Per request of Attorney Upton, placed this on the January 2021 Agenda. Requires abutters notice.*

*This is the Notice of a Public Hearing for this Item. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard.*

*Continued to the February 22, 2021 Licensing Commission Meeting*

*Attorney Andrew Upton, Brian Kapadia and Andy Kapadia appeared for this application. Attorney Upton gave a brief overview. This is a family business and the owners work on-site every day. A petition was submitted with 100 signatures in support of this application, as well as 5 letters of support. This company was fined in 2015, they were cited for a tobacco violation, and paid a small fine, they learned from this experience, bought an ID scanner for \$1200, and have had no other issues for in the 5 years since. Specialty wines and beers will be sold. Customers have been requesting Beer and wine be sold and they are ADA compliant. The proposed manager, Brian Kapadia, has managed their family store in Boston, which has Beer & Wine License, for over a year, and is TIPS Certified. No incidents at the Boston location. Chairman Lynch suggested Attorney Upton check to ensure that wine/beer tastings are allowed in a convenience store.*

*Patrick Bryant and Brenda Divelbliss spoke on this matter. He lives at 18 Gibbons St. He is fully in support of this license. He states they are responsive to their customer's requests.*

*Stephen Mackey, Somerville Chamber of Commerce spoke on this matter. He lives 2 minutes away on Hudson St. and frequents this establishment 2-3 times per week at all times of the day. He is confident that they will do a good job.*

*John Norton retired Deputy Fire Chief, Somerville spoke on this matter. He stated before Brian and his family took over, it was Diary Mart, and it was a despicable store. They had nothing in it and it was run down. He believes this would a convenience.*

*Michael Dulock spoke on this matter. He is a homeowner on Woodbine St. and a business owner down the street from this business. He wishes to show his support, even though he doesn't drink a lot of alcohol. There is always a family member in the store. He's glad to have this establishment.*

*The commission approved this Transfer of a Wine & Malt Package Store License*

**Existing All Forms Alcohol**  
**City – Assembly Row License**  
**Requesting**  
**Change of Officers**

10. RCSH Corp. d/b/a Ruth's Chris, 375 Revolution Drive requests approval for a Change of Officers for the Removal of current officer, Alice Givens and the addition of a new officer, Erik M. Jenkins (ALM20-000170)

*Attorney Grace Yang appeared for this application. Attorney Yang states Mr. Jenkins has a long career with Ruth's Chris. He began in an entry level position, has been with the company for over 30 years, has been promoted though the years and is now in a leadership position. He is a Florida resident, which is the base of this company.*

*The commission approved this Change of Officers*

**Existing All Forms Alcohol**  
**Private License**  
**Requesting**  
**Alteration of Premises**

11. Fraiman Enterprises Inc. d/b/a The Somerville Theater, 55 Davis Sq. requesting approval for an Alteration of Premises (ALM20-000172)

***This is the Notice of a Public Hearing for this Item. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard.***

*Attorney Robert Annise, Richard Fraiman and Ian Judge appeared for this application. The building has been in existence since 1914. The Fraiman family purchased the building in 1983. This is a family owned company. They will be converting 2 existing theaters into a ballroom, for a live event venue. This is originally how the space was setup. Chairman Lynch asked about alcohol service and ADA compliance for the upstairs ballroom. Alcohol will be served upstairs and there is an elevator for ADA access. There will be a catering kitchen for events, such as weddings, but nothing prepared on site. The name for the space will be The Crystal Ballroom at the Somerville Theater.*

*Stephen Mackey, Somerville Chamber of Commerce spoke on this matter. He states this is a brilliant move and he supports this application.*

*The commission approved this Alteration of Premises.*

**Existing All Forms Alcohol**

**City – Farmers Series Pouring License**

**Requesting**  
**Change of Manager**

12. Indignant Brewing Company d/b/a Winter Hill Brewing, 328 Broadway requesting a Change of Manager from Jeff Rowe to David Breckenridge Bailey (ALM20-000175)

*David Breckenridge Bailey appeared for this application. Mr. Bailey opened the establishment in 2016. Jeff Rowe is no longer with the company. Mr. Bailey is TIPS certified.*

*The commission approved this Change of Manager.*

**Existing All Forms Alcohol**

**Private License**  
**Requesting**  
**Change of Manager**

13. Parisi's d/b/a Mike's Bar, 97 Washington St. requesting a Change of Manager from Rober Parise to Jana Brinkhaus (ALM20-000176)

*The applicant could not stay past 6:00pm. Requested a continuance until the February 22, 2021 Licensing Commission Meeting. The Commission approved this request.*

*Continued to the February 22, 2021 Licensing Commission Meeting*

**Existing All Forms Alcohol**  
**City – Assembly Row License**

**Requesting**  
**Change of Manager**

14. RCSH Corp. d/b/a Ruth's Chris, 375 Revolution Drive requests approval for a Change of Manager from Matthew Thomas William to John Allard (ALM20-000179)

*Attorney Grace Yang and John Allard appeared for this application. Mr. Allard has been with this company since October 2018 and has been a manager at the Somerville restaurant. He has previous experience at Bertucci's, Cheesecake Factory, Back Bay Restaurant Group and P.F. Chang's. Attorney Yang confirmed Mr. Allard is TIPS Certified and has gone through the certification process to manage a restaurant with All Forms Alcohol. Mr. Allard confirmed this and stated he has 20 years' experience.*

*The Commission approved this Change of Manager*

**Existing All Forms Alcohol**  
**City – Assembly Row License**

**Requesting**  
**Transfer of Stock, Change of Officers/Directors/LLC Managers,**  
**Change of Ownership Interest and Change of Manager**

15. Riverbar LLC d/b/a The Riverbar, 661 Assembly Row requesting approval for a Transfer of Stock a Change of Officers/Directors/LLC Managers, a Change of Ownership Interest and a Change of Manager from Sean Farrel to Geoffrey Arvanitis (ALM20-000180)

***This is the Notice of a Public Hearing for this Item. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard.***

*Attorney Anne Vigorito, Kim Roop and Matthew Sullivan appeared for this application. Mr. Sullivan is currently the owner operator and manager of Nantucket Prime, since 2014, as well as from 2009 until the present, The Wharf Restaurant. They will essentially be keeping things the same, except changing a portion of the menu. Mr. Arvantis has worked as an assistant manager at this restaurant, and Mr. Farrel is leaving the company. Both Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Arvantis are TIPS Certified. Commission Allen asked for the status of hearing for the May 2020 Hearing at the ABCC. Mr. Sullivan explained the event happened in August of 2019 for a bartender over serving guests at 12:15 at night. He was not working at the establishment at that time, but the hearing was delayed due to Covid, and it has not been rescheduled yet. Ms. Roop stated that no one at River Bar, who was there when the incident happened is currently employed there now. Chairman Lynch asked for clarification, that the employee involved in this incident is no longer an employee, and Ms. Roop confirmed this.*

*The commission approved this Transfer of Stock, Change of Officers/Directors/LLC Manager, Change of Ownership Interest and Change of Manager*

**Existing All Forms Alcohol**  
**Package Store**  
**Private License**  
**Requesting**  
**Alteration of Premises**

- 16. Kajal and Kevin LLC II d/b/a Liquor Junction, 14 McGrath Hwy requesting approval for an Alteration of Premises (ALM20-000181)

***This is the Notice of a Public Hearing for this Item. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard.***

*Ketul Patel appeared for this application. Mr. Patel is expanding the retail space by 2000 ft. He states he has had no violations in the 3 years he has been open. The expansion is an adjoining property, and they will be going through a wall, with interior renovations to match the existing premises.*

*The commission approved this Alteration of Premises*

**EXISTING TEMPORARY OUTDOOR SEATING – ADDING SEATING & GREENHOUSES**

**TEMPORARY OUTDOOR PATIO SEATING**  
**DUE TO GOVERNOR BAKER’S ORDER**

**Requesting**

**An Alteration of Premises**  
**For TEMPORARY Outdoor Patio Seating**

17.

FOR NEXT LC MEETING															
LICENSE #	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS	STATUS	APP. TYPE	COMPLETE	CURRENT/NEW	PUBLIC/PRIVATE	TENT	HASP	FLOOR PLAN	CONTROL ENG.	SPCD	FIRE	INSURED	WINTER CERT.
ALM20-000177	Genki Ya	246 Elm St.	Expansion of Temp. Outdoor Seat.	from 20 to 32 Seats & Add. Greenhouses	Yes	Current/Temp	Public	Greenhouses	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes

*The applicant was not in attendance when called. Continued until the February 22, 2021 Licensing Commission Meeting*