



**City of Somerville
Licensing Commission**

Regular Meeting

**Tuesday
January 16, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

DRAFT MINUTES

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.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Joseph Lynch at 6:03 p.m.

Attendance:

Chair Joseph Lynch – Present
Commissioner Christopher Allen – Present
Commissioner Jacques Thomas, Jr. – Absent

Others present:

Bernabe Rodriguez – Assistant City Clerk; Timothy Mitsakis – Police Lieutenant; Timothy Bakey – Fire Captain.

Communications

1. Minutes of the Regular Licensing Commission Meeting of 11/13/2023.

The Commission approved the Minutes.

2. Minutes of the Special Meeting Licensing Commission Meeting of 11/17/2023.

The Commission continued to the February 2024 Licensing Commission meeting.

3. Communication from the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission regarding an upcoming violation hearing for Galwegan Inc d/b/a The Burren, 247 Elm St, Somerville.

The Commission placed this Item on file.



Status Reports

4. Licensing Commission requesting a status report on the use of All-Forms Alcohol License:

License #	Business Name	Address	License Type	Category
AL17-000326	Teele Square Café Inc. d/b/a The Basement	1133B Broadway	All Forms	Private

Continued from the 5/16/22, 3/20/23, 9/25/23, 11/13/23 Licensing Commission meetings.

Attorney Tyler Henesler spoke on behalf of the applicant and indicated that the delay in opening the venue was due to a construction issue regarding ADA compliance, and requested additional time from the Commission. Commissioner Lynch expressed concern over the continued delays and the feeling that the license is “pocketed.”

The Licensing Commission continued this Item until the April 2024 Licensing Commission meeting.

Special Alcohol Licenses

5. Tulum Mexican Cuisine, 3 Washington St Somerville, requesting the approval of a Special Alcohol License for Tulum Mexican Cuisine Inauguration to be held indoors at 3 Washington Street Somerville, on 1/18/24-1/20/24 from 4pm-10:30pm (Alcohol Service).
(PEL23-000226)

Abner Gonzalez, the applicant, stated that this license would allow him to have a grand opening for his new restaurant and to serve alcohol for a limited time before its full liquor license is finalized and issued by the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC). Commissioner Allen asked if the alcohol was being purchased through a distributor and if the employees are TIPS certified, and Gonzalez replied in the affirmative.

The Licensing Commission approved this license.

6. Rococo Floral Co, 231 Somerville Ave Somerville, requesting the approval of a Special Alcohol License for Rococo Floral Co’s Grand Opening, to be held indoors at 231 Somerville Ave Somerville, on 1/26/24 from 4:00pm-9:00pm (Alcohol Service).
(PEL23-000223)

Julia Conrad stated that this license is for their business to have a grand opening event. Commissioner Allen asked if the drinks would be complimentary, and Conrad stated they would be. Commissioner Lynch asked where the applicant was purchasing the alcohol,



and Conrad replied from a liquor store. Commissioner Lynch replied that the applicant must obtain the alcohol from an approved distributor, and stated that doing so would be a condition for approving this license.

Captain Bakey from the Fire Department stated that the application indicates a maximum number of attendees at 70, but the maximum capacity of the venue is 40. Conrad stated that they understand that they would not be allowed to have more than 40 attendees at one time, and Commissioner Lynch stated that keeping the attendance at or below 40 people is a condition for granting the license.

The Licensing Commission approved this license with the conditions that the applicant purchase the alcohol from an approved distributor and that attendance is capped at 40 people at any one time.

7. LEGO Discover Center Boston, 598 Assembly Row Somerville, requesting the approval of a Special Alcohol License for LEGO Discovery Center Boston Adult Nights, to be held indoors at 598 Assembly Row Somerville, on 2/14/24, 3/13/24, 4/10/24, 5/8/24, 6/12/24, 7/10/24, 8/14/24, 9/11/24, 10/9/24, 11/13/24, 12/11/24 from 7:00pm-9:30pm (Alcohol Service). (PEL23-000224)

Cecilia Hennessy stated that the applicant is requesting this license to serve alcohol at Lego's planned Adult Nights, and added that the company has been hosting these events for several years now. Hennessy continued that the alcohol is served by local breweries, who come to the events to do their own sales.

The Licensing Commission approved this license.

Existing Marijuana Establishment License

Change of Hours

8. Advesa MA Inc d/b/a Blue River Terps, 692 Broadway Somerville, requesting approval of a Change of Hours.
Current Hours: Mon-Sat: 10am-8pm, Sun: 11am-8pm.
Proposed Hours: Mon-Fri: 12pm-11pm, Sat: 9am-11pm, Sun: 10am-11pm.
(MEA24-000001)

Michael Latulippe spoke on behalf of the applicant, and stated that the business recently opened on December 19, 2023. Commissioner Lynch noted for the record that the City Councilor for the applicant's ward recently changed and that the business should reach out to them.



The Licensing Commission approved this change.

Existing Package Store All Forms License

Change of Stock Interest, Change of Manager, and Change of Officers/Directors

9. Joe's Liquor Inc d/b/a Joe, 168-172 Broadway Somerville, requesting approval of a Change of Stock Interest, Change of Manager, and Change of Officers/Directors.
Current Manager: Paul S. Robichaud.
Proposed Manager: Colleen Mountzouros.
Current Officers/Directors: Gail E. Robichaud.
Proposed Officers/Directors: Paul J. Robichaud and Colleen Mountzouros.
Current Stock Interest: Gail E. Robichaud (100%).
Proposed Stock Interest: Paul J. Robichaud (50%) and Colleen Mountzouros (50%).
(ALM23-000079)

Colleen Mountzouros stated that the changes for the license are due to the passing of her father last year. Mountzouros continued that the store has been in operation for 27 years and that she and her brother, Paul J. Robichaud, have been involved in its day-to-day operations for most of their lives.

Chair Lynch stated for the record that this license change received a letter of support from the East Somerville Main Streets organization.

Commissioner Lynch opened the public hearing. Ward 1 City Councilor Matt McLaughlin spoke in strong support of this license change. Commissioner Lynch closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved these changes.

Existing All Forms Alcohol License

Change of Corporate Structure

10. Earl's Restaurant (Somerville, MA) d/b/a Earl's Kitchen and Bar, 698 Assembly Row Somerville, requesting approval of Change of Officers/Directors and Change of Manager.
Current Manager: Kenneth Jimenez.
Proposed Manager: Wesley Zamir Zambrano Cevallos.
Current Officers/Directors: Stanley Fuller, Kenneth Jimenez, and Earl's Restaurants USA Inc.
Proposed Officers/Directors: Stanley Fuller, Delane Diseko, and Earl's Restaurants USA Inc.
(ALM23-000084)



Trish Farnsworth spoke on behalf of the applicant, who stated that the previous manager, Kenneth Jimenez resigned, leaving an opening for Manager and among the business's Directors, the former being filled by Wesley Cevallos and the latter by Delane Diseko. Farnsworth added that Cevallos has been with Earl's since 2017 and has the experience to be an effective manager.

The Licensing Commission approved this change.

Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Change of Manager

11. River Bar LLC d/b/a River Bar, 661 Assembly Row Somerville, requesting approval of a Change of Manager.
Current Manager: Geoffrey Arvanitis.
Proposed Manager: Jessica Brissette.
(ALM23-000080)

Jessica Brissette stated that they would become the new Manager after the previous Manager was let go. Commissioner Lynch asked if the applicant was aware of any pending hearings before the ABCC, and Brissette replied that they were not. Commissioner Allen asked if the applicant has personally had any issues with their local licensing authority or the ABCC, and Brissette replied that they have not. Commissioner Allen asked how long the applicant has been working in the hospitality industry, and Brissette replied more than 20 years.

The Licensing Commission approved this change.

12. LSF Legal on the Mystic LLC d/b/a Legal on the Mystic, 301 Great River Rd Somerville, requesting approval of a Change of Manager.
Current Manager: Alicia P. Yates.
Proposed Manager: Philip M. Steele.
(ALM23-000083)

Donna Cruz stated that the Current Manager was transferred to another location. Commissioner Allen asked how long the Proposed Manager has been in the industry, and Cruz replied that he has been with Legal Seafoods for 8 years and is TIPS certified. Philip Steele confirmed that he has worked for Legal Seafoods for 8 years and has 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry.

The Licensing Commission approved this change.



Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Change of Manager & Change of Hours

13. Flatbread Somerville Inc d/b/a Flatbread Company, 45 Day St Somerville, requesting approval of a Change of Manager and Change of Hours.

Current Manager: Katherine L. Biggs.

Proposed Manager: Nevada Dawn Anderson.

Current Hours: Mon-Sat: 11:30am-11:30pm
Sun: 11:30am-10:30pm
(Food and Alcohol Service).

Proposed Hours: Mon-Sun: 10am-12am
(Food and Alcohol Service).

(ALM23-000081)

Jim Harrison explained that the business would like to expand its hours due to being fully staffed and experiencing an increase in volume, adding that they serve pizza and would like to be able to open earlier to do so to host children's birthday parties, for example.

Harrison also noted that the Proposed Manager, Nevada Anderson, has been in the restaurant business for 12 years, has been with Flatbread for 12 years, is TIPS certified, and has Crowd Control and Choke Saver Certificates.

The Licensing Commission approved this change.

Existing Common Victualer License
Change of Manager & Change of Hours

14. Star Markets Company Inc d/b/a Starbucks Kiosk at Star #3580, 22A McGrath Hwy Somerville, requesting approval of a Change of Manager and Change of Hours.

Current Manager: Franco Di Agostino.

Proposed Manager: Carlos Minueza.

Current Hours: Mon-Sun: 6am-8pm.

Proposed Hours: Mon-Sun: 7am-9pm.

(ALM23-000086)

No representative for the applicant appeared before the Commission.

The Licensing Commission continued the Item to the February 2024 Licensing Commission meeting.



Transfer of License & Change of Category
All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License-Private

Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices & Performers Indoors, Sunday Hours

15. 181 Bonfire Corporation d/b/a Bonfire Boston, 282 McGrath Hwy Somerville, requesting approval of the Transfer and Change of Category of a Private Club License from Nucleo Sportinguista Inc d/b/a Nucleo Sportinguista to an All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License, Common Victualer License, Entertainment by Devices and Performers Indoors, and Sunday Hours License.

Indoor Seats: 50.

Hours of Operation (Food Service): Mon-Sun: 8am-1am.

Hours of Operation (Alcohol Service): Mon-Sat: 8am-1am, Sun: 10am-1am.

(AL23-000032)

Attorney Alexander Capano appeared with Julio Pena, the applicant, and Jason Carron, the applicant's business consultant. Capano stated that the applicant is hoping to use the license to renovate a dilapidated building and that they have signed a long-term lease and invested heavily in renovating it. Capano added that the applicant hired Carron to work on the concept for the menu, with a goal of making and serving high quality food at reasonable prices. Commissioner Lynch asked about the term of the lease, and Pena replied that it is currently a 3-5-year term. Commissioner Allen asked about the applicant's planned open date, and Pena replied their goal is to open on April 1, 2024. Commissioner Allen asked if there would be live music performers, and Pena replied that there would occasionally be a DJ performing. Commissioner Lynch encouraged the applicant to be mindful of noise ordinances and to reach out to neighboring residents. Commissioner Allen asked about Pena's experience in the hospitality industry, who replied that they operate an autobody shop in East Boston and had been wanting to open a restaurant, and that Carron was hired as a consultant to assist in developing the concept. Commissioner Allen asked who the manager would be, and Pena replied that they would, and that they are currently working to become TIPS certified. Commissioner Lynch asked if the applicant has been in contact with their City Councilor, and they replied that they have.

Commissioner Lynch opened the public hearing. No members of the public offered comments on this Item. Commissioner Lynch closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved this license.

New

All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License – Citywide

Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices & Performers Indoors, Sunday Hours



16. Duck Duck Goofs LLC d/b/a Duck Duck Goofs Comedy Club, 434 McGrath Hwy Somerville, requesting approval of an All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License, Common Victualer License, Entertainment by Devices and Performers Indoors, and Sunday Hours License.
Indoor Seats: 93.
Hours of Operation (Food and Alcohol Service): Mon-Sun: 11am-12am.
(AL23-000034)

Attorney Anne Vigorito appeared on behalf of the applicant and explained that the applicant is planning to host comedy shows, as well as run a comedy school where they offer classes to the general public. Vigorito added that the applicant will begin by offering comedy shows primarily in the evening, but that they plan to add additional shows, including family shows and comedy brunch. Vigorito stated that Ryan Howe, the manager, has a history in alcohol distribution, bartending, and is TIPS certified.

Commissioner Allen asked if the applicant planned to serve brunch Monday through Sunday, and Vigorito replied that right now the applicant plans to have brunch on the weekends, but may have events earlier in the day during the week for special events. Commissioner Allen asked about the applicant's planned menu, and Vigorito replied that it would be robust, reasonably priced, and sometimes have paired events with local food business. Commissioner Allen asked if the proposed manager has had any issues with the Cambridge Licensing Commission or the ABCC, and Vigorito replied that he did not.

Commissioner Lynch opened the public hearing. No members of the public offered comments on this Item. Commissioner Lynch closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved this license.

New
All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License – Citywide
Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices Indoors, Sunday Hours

17. Tulum Mexican Cuisine Co d/b/a Tulum Mexican Cuisine, 3 Washington St Somerville, requesting approval of an All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License, Common Victualer License, Entertainment by Devices Indoors, and Sunday Hours License.
Indoor Seats: 57.
Hours of Operation (Food Service): Mon-Sun: 11am-11pm.
Hours of Operation (Alcohol Service): Mon-Sun: 11am-11pm.
(AL23-000035)

Abner Gonzalez stated that the restaurant would be family-friendly and be a positive addition to the area. Commissioner Lynch asked what type of entertainment would be



provided, and Gonzalez replied that there might be musicians on the weekends, to which Commissioner Lynch replied that an additional license would be required to do that. Commissioner Allen asked about Gonzalez's experience in the food industry, who replied that he has been working in a Mexican restaurant for more than 15 years, that he enjoys serving people and working in restaurants, and that he had been looking for a restaurant to buy for a while and finally found this property.

Commission Lynch opened the public hearing. Annie Silva, the Small Business Liaison for East Somerville Main Streets, spoke in strong support of approving this license. Commissioner Lynch closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved this license.

New

Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices Indoors License

18. Marios Takos d/b/a Opa Greek Yeeros, 378 Highland Ave Somerville, requesting approval of a Common Victualer License and Entertainment by Devices Indoors.
Indoor Seats: 8.
Hours of Operation: Mon-Sun: 11am-8pm.
(AL23-000040)

Marios Takos stated that they recently purchased the business, which was also previously operating as a Greek restaurant, and to re-open it with a spin on Greek food based on his family's expertise. Commissioner Lynch asked if they planned to continue the use of the previous owner's private outdoor patio, and Takos replied that they have not decided if they are going to use it yet, but that if they do, they understand they need to apply for an outdoor seating permit.

Commissioner Lynch opened the public hearing. No members of the public offered comments on this Item. Commissioner Lynch closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved this license.

New

Common Victualer

19. Assembly Row Poke LLC d/b/a Pokemoto, 410 Artisan Way Somerville, requesting approval of a Common Victualer License.
Indoor Seats: 16.
Hours of Operation: Sun-Thurs: 11am-9pm, Fri-Sat: 11am-10pm.
(AL23-000039)



Jason Vaillette stated that this business is a franchise concept based in Connecticut with locations in Massachusetts and nationwide, and that they specialize in poke bowls, which is like sushi in a bowl. Commissioner Lynch asked if the applicant was aware this license does not permit alcohol and allows for only 16 seats, which Vaillette confirmed. Commissioner Lynch asked about the planned opening date, and Vaillette stated the goal is mid-February.

The Licensing Commission approved this license.

LATE ITEMS

New *Common Victualer*

20. Crave & Co Inc d/b/a Crave & Co Cafe, 198 Holland St Somerville, requesting approval of a Common Victualer License.
Indoor Seats: 48.
Hours of Operation: Mon-Sun: 7am-11pm.
(AL23-000043)

Ameer Noufal explained that the concept for the restaurant is American cuisine with a Mediterranean twist. The Commissioners had no additional questions.

The Licensing Commission approved this license.

Existing Common Victualer License Alteration of Indoor Premises

21. Ball Square Café Breakfast Inc d/b/a Ball Square Café and Breakfast, 708 Broadway Somerville, requesting approval of an Alteration of Indoor Premises.
Current Indoor Seats: 36.
Proposed Indoor Seats: 81.
(ALM23-000087)

Mike Moccia explained that renovations were made to the premises in 2020 to expand to 81 seats, but that they were inadvertently unaware that the license needed to be amended, and is present to bring the license into compliance. Captain Bakey reminded the applicant that they need to provide the new floor plan to the Fire Department and that it has to be stamped by the architect, which Moccia confirmed.



The Licensing Commission approved this change.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.