



**City of Somerville
Licensing Commission**

Regular Meeting

**Tuesday
March 19, 2024
6:00pm**

City Council Chamber and Remote Participation

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 6:01 p.m.

Attendance:

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

Others present:

Michael Potere – Licensing Operations Manager; Timothy Mitsakis – Police Lieutenant; Darrell Richardson – Fire Lieutenant; Brian Postlewaite – Assistant Director of Engineering; Niki Green – ADA Field Associate.

Communications

1. Minutes of the Regular Licensing Commission Meeting of 2/20/2024.

The Commission approved the Minutes.

Special Alcohol Licenses

2. St. Anthony Parish, 12 Properzi Way Somerville, requesting the approval of a Special Alcohol License for Baile das Maes (Mother's Day), to be held indoors at 12 Properzi Way Somerville, on 5/11/24 from 8pm-1am (Alcohol Service).
(PEL24-000036)

Jorge Navarette, the applicant, appeared before the Commission. Commissioner Lynch asked how many people would be attending, and the applicant replied approximately 300.



Commissioner Lynch asked if a police detail would be required, and Lieutenant Mitsakis confirmed that it would. The applicant stated they contacted the Police Department about this and was told to make the request in April. Commissioner Allen asked if the alcohol would be purchased by a licensed distributor, if the staff are TIPS certified, and if IDs will be checked at the door, all of which the applicant confirmed. Commissioner Thomas recommended that the applicant request event attendees to use public transportation to get there.

The Licensing Commission approved this license.

3. St. Anthony Parish, 12 Properzi Way Somerville, requesting the approval of a Special Alcohol License for Wedding of Lidia Serpas & Jose Palacios, to be held indoors at 12 Properzi Way Somerville, on 5/25/24 from 6:30pm-1am (Alcohol Service).
(PEL24-000007)

Jorge Navarette, the applicant, appeared before the Commission. The applicant requested that the hours on the application be adjusted to 7:00pm-11:00pm. Commissioner Lynch asked how many people would be attending, and the applicant replied approximately 100.

The Licensing Commission approved this license as amended to reflect the hours of 7:00pm-11:00pm.

4. Nice, an LLC, 86 Summer St Arlington, requesting the approval of a Special Alcohol License for Nice, a Fest, to be held outdoors at Grove St Parking Lot in Somerville, on 7/27/24 and 7/28/24 from 12pm-10pm (Alcohol Service) with raindates of 8/3/24 and 8/4/24.
(PEL24-000002)

Alex Pickert, the applicant, appeared before the Commission, who explained the event will be an all-Boston music festival, and that it has been hosted for the past three years, with this being the first year it will be outdoors. Commissioner Lynch if the applicant had gone through the process for a Special Event License, and the applicant replied that the process is nearly complete. Commissioner Lynch asked about potential attendance for the event, and the applicant replied around 2,500 for the entire event, and approximately 800 to 1,500 at any given time during the festival. Commissioner Allen asked if the applicant had arranged a detail with the Police Department, and the applicant responded that they were informed to request that detail closer to the event. Commissioner Allen asked if the alcohol was being purchased from an authorized distributor, which the applicant confirmed, and added that they would be checking IDs at the door and providing wristbands. Commissioner Thomas asked about ADA accessibility, and the applicant replied that the event would be taking place on flat ground, and that they had already planned to have



accessible bathrooms. Commissioner Thomas asked how many portable bathrooms would be available, and the applicant replied one for every one hundred people, so likely 15 in total. Commissioner Lynch expressed concern regarding the layout for the event, and Director Postlewaite presented the plan that the Engineering Department recently approved, to which Commissioner Lynch expressed approval.

The Licensing Commission approved this license with the condition that the applicant provide police detail as directed by the Somerville Police Department.

5. Downeast Cider, 256 Marginal St Boston, requesting the approval of a Special Alcohol License for Downeast @ The Park by VOLO, to be held outdoors at The Park in Assembly Row in Somerville, on 04/01/24 thru 04/30/24 from 12pm-10pm (Alcohol Service). (PEL24-000029)

Roisin Gilligan, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained the event would accompany a co-ed sports league that takes place in Assembly Row, and that they will be serving Downeast Cider and other malt beverages.

The Licensing Commission approved this license.

6. Bloc Cafe, 11 Bow St Somerville, requesting the approval of a Special Alcohol License for Marzae Wine at Bloc Cafe, to be held indoors at 11 Bow St Somerville, on 5/2/24, 5/9/24, 5/16/24, 5/23/24, 5/30/24, 6/6/24, 6/13/24, 6/20/24, 6/27/24 from 5pm-10pm (Alcohol Service). (PEL24-000026)

Courtney Verhaglen, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that Marzae Wine approached them to host an event to expose their brand to Somerville residents. The applicant also noted that the event would be indoors and outdoors, and that Marzae Wine has a license to serve alcohol and is on the state's authorized distributors list. Commissioner Allen asked how the alcohol would be served, and the applicant responded either by table service or else by counter service. Commissioner Lynch asked if the applicant's servers are TIPS certified, and the applicant responded that they are in the process of completing that certification.

The Licensing Commission approved this license for indoor and outdoor operation.



7. Somerville Sports Club, 203 Somerville Ave Somerville, requesting the approval of a Special Alcohol License for Portugal Day, to be held outdoors at 203 Somerville Ave Somerville, on 6/8/24 from 4pm-10pm (Alcohol Service).
(PEL24-000035)

Maria Carreiro-Luis, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained the application is to host a Portugal Day event, and that they expect the traffic to the event to be mainly on foot. Commissioner Lynch asked how long the applicant has been hosting Portugal Days, who replied since 1989. Commissioner Lynch asked if the location has hosted other events in the past, and the applicant indicated that it had. Commissioner Thomas asked the applicant to encourage attendees to use public transit to attend the event.

Commissioner Lynch asked if the proposed location already has an alcohol license, and Manager Potere responded that this application applies to distinct premises that are not subject to any existing alcohol license. Lieutenant Richardson noted that the alcohol license attached to the indoor premises at 203 Somerville Ave was awaiting fire inspection, and that the Fire Department was at the address earlier in the day and asked for one more change to be made prior to final approval.

Commissioner Lynch asked if Lieutenant Richardson was aware of the applicant's plans to use grills at the event, which Lieutenant Richardson confirmed.

Commissioner Lynch clarified with the applicant that the granting of this Special Alcohol License will require the applicant to purchase alcohol from an authorized distributor. Commissioner Lynch and Commissioner Allen both further emphasized that alcohol cannot be transferred between the applicant's indoor and outdoor premises.

Commissioner Lynch asked if the bartenders for the event would be TIPS certified, and the applicant replied that they would.

The Licensing Commission approved this license with two conditions: first, that the Fire Department complete its inspections on the indoor premises at the address; second, that the applicant purchase the alcohol for the event from an authorized distributor.



Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Private Outdoor Seating & Change of Hours

8. Lehrhaus LLC d/b/a Lehrhaus, 425 Washington Street Somerville, requesting approval of Private Outdoor Seating License and Change of Hours.
Outdoor Private Seats: 24

Current Hours:

Mon-Thurs: 4:30pm-12am, Fri: Closed, Sat: Sundown-1am, Sun: 10am-9pm

Proposed Hours (Indoors and Outdoors):

Mon-Fri: 10am-12am, Sat: 7:30pm-1am, Sun: 10am-10pm

(ALM23-000070)

Commissioner Allen recused himself from this application as an abutter.

Rabbi Charlie Schwartz, the applicant, appeared before the Commission with their attorney, David Lipshutz. Rabbi Schwartz stated that they have been open for approximately one year with no issues, and that they are now seeking to expand their service outside. Commissioner Lynch asked about ADA accessibility to the back outdoor patio, and Rabbi Schwartz confirmed that the public's only access to the patio will be to go behind the building; Director Postlewaite stated for the record that the outdoor dining plan was reviewed by the Engineering Department and is recommended for approval.

Commissioner Lynch noted for the record that Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott expressed support for this Item via email earlier in the day.

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 the requested changes to the applicant's license.

Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Public Parklet & Sidewalk Seating

9. Cercross & Sons Inc d/b/a Restaurante Turistico Machu Picchu, 307 Somerville Ave Somerville, requesting approval of Public Parklet and Sidewalk Seating License.
Outdoor Parklet Seats: 24
(ALM24-000004)



Rosy Cortez, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and indicated that this application reflects an amendment to their previous outdoor dining license to reduce the size of the outdoor dining space from three parklets to two parklets, thereby reducing the number of seats from 36 to 24. Director Postlewaite stated that the Engineering Department reviewed the plans, noted that there were no major substantive changes to the applicant's outdoor dining plans, and recommended the Item be approved.

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 the requested changes to the applicant's license.

Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Change of DBA Name & Entertainment by Performers Indoors

10. Papagayo Somerville Inc d/b/a Toca Chida, 331 Great River Rd Somerville, requesting approval of Change of DBA Name and Entertainment by Performers Indoors.
Current DBA Name: Papagayo
Proposed DBA Name: Toca Chida
(ALM24-000011)

Chris Damian, the applicant, appeared before the Commission. The applicant stated they are the chef-owner of the business and are seeking a name change to accompany their new restaurant concept at the location. Commissioner Lynch asked the applicant to confirm that this is a name change only, and not a transfer of stock, for example, which the applicant confirmed.

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 the requested changes to the applicant's license.



Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Change of Manager

11. Outback Steakhouse of Florida LLC d/b/a Outback Steakhouse, 625 Grand Union Blvd #120 Somerville, requesting approval of Change of Manager.
Current Manager: Jillian Standish
Proposed Manager: Michael S. Jackson
(ALM24-000013)

Attorney Libby Pisano appeared before the Commission on behalf of the applicant, Michael Jackson, also present. Attorney Pisano stated that Jackson is a United States citizen and Massachusetts resident who is familiar with Massachusetts alcohol laws and has been at the Outback Steakhouse for over 10 years. Commissioner Allen asked if Jackson has had any issues with the local licensing commission or state alcohol commission, who replied they had none.

The Licensing Commission approved the requested changes to the applicant's license.

12. Urban Axes Boston LLC d/b/a Urban Axes, 2 Union Square Somerville, requesting approval of Change of Manager.
Current Manager: Jessica Brissette
Proposed Manager: Kenya Claytor
(ALM24-000008)

Commissioner Thomas recused himself from this application as an abutter.

Kenya Claytor, the applicant, appeared before the Commission. Commissioner Lynch asked if the applicant has managed an alcohol license before, who replied they have but not as a General Manager. Commissioner Lynch asked if they are TIPS certified, which the applicant confirmed.

The Licensing Commission approved the requested changes to the applicant's license.



Existing Common Victualer License
Change of Manager & Change of Hours

13. Star Markets Company Inc d/b/a Starbucks Kiosk at Star #3580, 22A McGrath Hwy Somerville, requesting approval of 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)
Continued from 1/16/2024 and 2/20/2024 Licensing Commission Meetings.

Commissioner Lynch noted for the record that the applicant withdrew their Change of Hours request, and as such their application is for a Change of Manager only.

Carlos Minueza, the applicant, appeared before the Commission.

The Licensing Commission approved the Change of Manager request to the applicant's license.

Existing Common Victualer License
Entertainment by Devices Indoors

14. Merlin Entertainment Group d/b/a Lego Discovery Center Boston, 598 Assembly Row #302 Somerville, requesting approval of an Entertainment by Devices Indoors License.
(ALM23-000054)
Continued from 9/25/2023 (Public Hearing), 10/23/2023, and 2/20/2024 Licensing Commission Meetings.

Rachel Meissner, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and noted for the record that the employee who originally filed the application left the company, and as such the notifications for the application were going to an unmonitored email account. The applicant explained that this license is for an indoor theater, six virtual reality pods, and an indoor ride with multiple screens.

The Licensing Commission approved the requested changes to the applicant's license.



Existing Common Victualer License
Change of Hours

15. By The Street LLC d/b/a Hen Chicken Rice, 24 Union Sq Somerville, requesting approval of Change of Hours.

Current Hours: Mon-Sun: 11am-10pm

Proposed Hours: Mon-Sun: 11am-9pm

(ALM24-000009)

Warit Viriyaudomchart, the applicant, appeared before the Commission. Commissioner Lynch noted that this was for a one-hour change in operating hours.

The Licensing Commission approved the requested changes to the applicant's license.

New
Common Victualer & Entertainment by Devices Indoors

16. Window Seat LLC d/b/a Boston Halal, 248 Elm St Somerville, requesting approval of a Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices Indoors License.

Indoor Seats: 19

Hours of Operation (Indoors): Mon-Sun: 11am-12am

(AL23-000041)

Attorney John Mooradian appeared before the Commission on behalf of the applicant, Niral Patel, also present. Attorney Mooradian stated this will be a restaurant with no alcohol and the entertainment devices will be background music.

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.

17. Carolicious LLC d/b/a Carolicious Gourmet, 6 Bow Market Way Somerville, requesting approval of a Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices Indoors License.

Indoor Seats: 32

Hours of Operation (Indoors): Mon-Sun: 9am-12am

(AL23-000031)



Carolina Garcia, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that the Entertainment by Devices License would be speakers playing background music. Commissioner Allen asked where the restaurant is located, and the applicant responded in the expansion at Bow Market.

The applicant requested to change the Hours of Operation to:

Monday – Thursday: 11:00am-9:00pm

Friday – Saturday: 11:00am-10:00pm

Sunday: 11:00am-7:00pm

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 the applicant’s license with the following Hours of Operation:

Monday – Thursday: 11:00am-9:00pm

Friday – Saturday: 11:00am-10:00pm

Sunday: 11:00am-7:00pm.

New
Common Victualer

18. Caprese Inc d/b/a Venus Pizza and Grill, 1291-1293 Broadway Somerville, requesting approval of a Common Victualer License.

Indoor Seats: 22

Hours of Operation (Indoors): Sun-Wed: 11am-11pm

Thurs-Sat: 11am-12pm

(AL24-000002)

Adel Ibrahim, the applicant, appeared before the Commission. Commissioner Lynch asked if the applicant is currently operating any other restaurants, and the applicant replied that they are not currently but have operated restaurants in the past.

The Licensing Commission approved this license.



Transfer of License & Change of Location
Wine and Malt 7 Day Package Store License-Private

19. Modern Love LLC d/b/a Wild Child, 30 Bow St Somerville, requesting approval of a Transfer and Change of Location of a Private Wine and Malt Package Store License from Lucy Grace LLC d/b/a Top Shelf at Assembly located at 365 Canal St.

Hours of Operations (Indoors): Sun: 12pm-10pm
Mon-Fri: 12pm-10pm
Sat: 10am-10pm

(AL23-000021)

Attorney Adam Barnosky appeared on behalf of the applicant, Lauren Friel, who was also present. Attorney Barnosky stated that the store consists of 1,110 square feet on the ground floor of 30 Bow Street, noted that the applicant has a similar business across the street at Bow Market, and continued that the applicant would host small events with food and wine, as well as other educational experiences. Attorney Barnosky reiterated that the ZBA granted a special permit to authorize the retail sale of alcohol at this location earlier this year. Attorney Barnosky concluded that the applicant has had no citations or violations as a business owner.

Commissioner Thomas asked about potential issues with parking, and the applicant replied that they have spoken to their neighbors and have agreed to post signage regarding parking restrictions, adding that their business caters to those who would walk or bike to their store.

Commissioner Lynch noted for the record that Ward 3 City Councilor Ewen-Campen expressed support for this license transfer application.

Commissioner Lynch opened the public hearing. Attorney Mark Evlogiadis, the attorney for the seller in the transfer at issue, noted that they are happy the transaction has finally been completed. Jim McGinnis expressed general support for the application but expressed some concern regarding parking and the use of the emergency lane adjacent to 30 Bow Street. Commissioner Lynch closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved this license transfer.



New
Wine and Malt 7 Day Restaurant License + Pledge of License
Common Victualer, Entertainment by Device Indoors, Sunday Hours
Assembly Row (Chapter 142 Acts of 2016)

20. Amelia's Taqueria V d/b/a Amelia's Taqueria, 475 Revolution Drive Somerville, requesting approval of a Wine and Malt 7 Day Restaurant License, Common Victualer License, Entertainment by Devices Indoors, and Sunday Hours License.
Indoor Seats: 31
Hours of Operation (Indoors): Mon-Sat: 10am-11pm
Sun: 10am-9pm
(AL23-000047)

Attorney John Papantonakis appeared on behalf of the applicant, Amir Shiranian, who was also present. Attorney Papantonakis stated that the applicant purchased the assets of the restaurant previously at this location and has a similar Mexican concept in mind. Attorney Papantonakis noted that part of the loan to acquire the business is through the SBA, and so the license is pledged to the SBA. Attorney Papantonakis concluded that the entertainment device will be background music and is not substantively different from the previous establishment.

Commissioner Lynch asked if the applicant had any experience with an alcoholic beverages license in Massachusetts, and the applicant said they do and that they have not had any issues or violations.

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.

Late Items

21. Warehouse XI, 11 Sanborn Ct Somerville, requesting the approval of a Special Alcohol License for Pop Up Music Series, to be held indoors at 11 Sanborn Ct Somerville, on 3/27/24, 3/28/24, 4/6/24, 4/7/24, 4/11/24, 4/12/24, 4/13/24, and 4/20/24 from 7pm-11pm (Alcohol Service).
(PEL24-000037)



Peggy Morrissey, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and noted that these events would have musical entertainment, including local students. Commissioner Allen asked if the alcohol would be purchased by a licensed distributor, if the staff are TIPS certified, and if IDs will be checked at the door, all of which the applicant confirmed. Commissioner Lynch asked how many people would be attending these events, and the applicant replied around 50 or 60, and that the capacity of the space is 150.

The Licensing Commission approved this license.

22. Winter Hill Brewing, 328 Broadway Somerville, requesting the approval of a Special Alcohol License for Beer Garden for Anniversary Party and Porchfest, to be held outdoors in the parking lot of 328 Broadway Somerville, on 4/6/24 and 5/11/24 from 12pm-8pm with raindates of 4/7/24 and 5/12/24 (Alcohol Service).
(PEL24-000032)

Breck Baily, the applicant, appeared before the Commission, and explained that this application is similar to applications made in the past, where the applicant will use the adjacent parking lot that is not part of their alcohol license to host an event. Commissioner Thomas asked about whether the event will have an ADA accessible bathroom, and the applicant replied that it would. Commissioner Lynch asked how many people the applicant expected to attend, who replied approximately 40 or 50.

The Licensing Commission approved this license.