



**City of Somerville
Licensing Commission**

Regular Meeting

**Tuesday
November 19, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

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 Chair Joseph Lynch at 6:00 p.m. and adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Attendance:

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

Others present:

Michael Potere – Licensing Operations Manager; Captain Darrell Richardson – Somerville Fire Department; Lieutenant Timothy Mitsakis – Somerville Police Department; Niki Aurora –ADA Field Associate.

Communications

1. Minutes of the Regular Licensing Commission Meeting of 10/22/2024.

The Licensing Commission approved the minutes.

2. Requesting approval of the 2025 Proposed Somerville Licensing Commission Meeting Schedule.



The Licensing Commission approved the 2025 Meeting Schedule.

3. Communication from the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) regarding annual holiday compliance reminder (Happy Hour Regulation).

The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.

4. Somerville Police Department comment on 2AM Closing Establishments.

Date Approved	Business	Address
9/29/2005	The Independent	75 Union Square
9/29/2005	Casey's	171 Broadway
9/29/2008	Vera's	70 Union Square
4/26/2006	Olde Magoun Saloon	518 Medford Street
3/19/2012	Foundry on Elm	255 Elm Street
2/26/2007	The Burren	247 Elm Street
11/15/2010	Trina's Starlight Lounge	3 Beacon Street
6/16/2014	El Potro	61 Union Square
2/22/2016	Earl's Kitchen and Bar	698 Assembly Row #102
11/18/2019	La Posada Restaurant	505 Medford Street
7/25/2017	Holiday Inn	30 Washington St
10/22/2024	Gaucha	102 Broadway
7/19/2021	Premier On Broadway	519 Broadway
5/21/2024	The Tall Order	70 Beacon St

Lieutenant Mitsakis stated for the record that there have not been any notable issues with the city's 2AM alcohol service licenses during 2024.

Based on concerns arising from past conduct and a recommendation from the Somerville Police, the Licensing Commission imposed the following condition on the operation of The Burren's 2AM Friday and Saturday alcohol service license (247 Elm Street, AL17-000037): The establishment is required to apply for a police detail consisting of two officers between the hours of 10:00pm and 2:00am for the following dates:

**Friday, December 6, 2024,
Saturday, December 7, 2024,
Friday, December 13, 2024,
Saturday, December 14, 2024,**



**Friday, December 20, 2024,
Saturday, December 21, 2024,
Friday, December 27, 2024, and
Saturday, December 28, 2024.**

The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.

5. Above and Beyond Catering, 42 Plympton Street, Boston notifying the Commission of an Event, held at Assembly Innovation Park, Assembly Park Drive PH1, on Thursday, November 7, 2024 from 4pm to 7pm.

Chair Lynch asked for clarification as to whether this catering event had already taken place, and Manager Potere stated that the caterer's notice was not received 48 hours in advance as required, and that the caterer was informed of its responsibility to properly provide the city with advance notice in the future.

The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.

2025 License Renewals

6. Requesting approval of all 2025 license renewals.

The Licensing Commission approved all 2025 license renewals.

Existing Common Victualer License Public Sidewalk Outdoor Seating

7. Ola Gifts Café LLC d/b/a Ola Café, 112 Broadway Somerville, requesting approval of Public Sidewalk Outdoor Seating.
Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seats: 8
(ALM24-000048)

Augusto Dacunha, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that this amendment is to add eight outdoor sidewalk seats to their common victualer license. Chair Lynch asked about the type of tables and chairs, and the applicant stated the furniture will be small tables and accompanying chairs. Chair Lynch confirmed with the applicant that outdoor dining ends on November 30th. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.



ADA Field Associate Aurora stated that Engineering reviewed the floorplans and they are recommended to be approved.

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

The Licensing Commission approved this Outdoor Seating license amendment.

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

8. K-Bok Korean Fried Chicken LLC d/b/a K-Bok Korean Fried Chicken, 249 Washington Street Somerville, requesting approval of an All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License, Entertainment by Devices Indoors, and Sunday Hours.
Hours of Operation: Indoor Alcohol Service:
Mon-Sat: 8am-10pm, Sun: 10am-10pm
Hours of Operation: Indoor Food Service):
Mon-Sun: 8am-10pm
Indoor Seats: 50
(AL24-000029)

Attorney Tyler Henseler appeared on behalf of the applicant, Yajaira Casserly, who was also present. Attorney Henseler stated that the applicant wishes to serve high-quality Korean fried chicken, along with side dishes, desserts, and all forms of alcohol to accompany the food. Attorney Henseler continued that a relative of the applicant owns the building, and that the applicant's chosen location was previously occupied by the holder of an all forms alcohol license. Attorney Henseler also stated that the applicant is a Massachusetts resident and has experience operating restaurants with alcohol licenses in the state, including at Logan Airport.

Chair Lynch clarified that this application does not include an Entertainment by Performers license, and Attorney Henseler confirmed that this application includes only an Entertainment by Devices license. Attorney Henseler added that the applicant would come before the Commission for any other desired amendments, including any to add outdoor dining or make changes to their hours.



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

The Licensing Commission approved this application for an All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License, Common Victualer License, Entertainment by Devices Indoors License, and Sunday Hours License.

Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Alteration of Premises

9. Soba Ya LLC d/b/a Sugidama, 234 Elm Street Somerville, requesting the approval of Alteration of Premises.
Current Indoor Seats: 36
Proposed Indoor Seats: 52
Current Outdoor Public Parklet Seats: 16
Proposed Outdoor Public Parklet Seats: 0
(ALM24-000050)

Attorney Kristine Lee appeared on behalf of the applicant and stated that the purpose of this amendment application is to close the licensee's outdoor dining and return those seats indoors, which was necessary for this licensee to comply with state bathroom plumbing regulations.

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

The Licensing Commission approved this Alteration of Premises license amendment.

Transfer of License and Pledge of Inventory
All Forms 7 Day Package Store License (Private)

10. Om Namah Shivaya Corp d/b/a Sav-Mor Spirits, requesting approval of a Transfer of License of an All Forms 7 Day Package Store License and Pledge of Inventory from Starl Liquors Inc d/b/a Sav-Mor Spirits located at 325 Canal Street, Unit 518.
Hours of Operation:
Mon-Thurs: 9am-10pm; Fri-Sat: 9am-11pm; Sun: 11am-7pm
(AL24-000026)



This item is related to agenda item 11. Jignesh Pachani, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that they have been in the liquor industry since 2013, they own several other liquor stores in cities including Worcester and Milford, and that they are very careful when it comes to checking IDs. The applicant stated that they have a violation on their record from two years ago for selling to a person under the age of 21, but that the employee who committed the offense is no longer affiliated with them, and they have not received any other violations.

Attorney Matt Porter also appeared on behalf of the applicant and added that this is a transfer of a private package store license and includes a pledge of license and inventory.

Chair Lynch asked who the manager of the store will be, and Attorney Porter stated that Deep Patel would manage this location, as well as the location reflected in item 11 of this agenda.

Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. Benjamin Weiner, the current owner of the establishment, spoke in favor of the applicant. Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved this application for a Transfer of License and Pledge of Inventory for an All Forms 7 Day Package Store License (Private).

- 11. Om Namah Shivaya Corp d/b/a Sav-Mor Spirits, requesting approval of a Transfer of License of an All Forms 7 Day Package Store License and Pledge of Inventory from MVP Liquors, Inc d/b/a Sav-Mor Spirits located at 2153 Mystic Valley Parkway.
Hours of Operation:
Mon-Thurs: 9am-10pm; Fri-Sat: 9am-11pm; Sun: 10am-8pm
(AL24-000027)**

This item is related to agenda item 10. Jignesh Pachani and Attorney Matt Porter also spoke in support of this application, which is largely the same as that in item 10, except that it is associated with a second establishment location. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.

Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. No members of the public offered comments on this item. Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved this application for a Transfer of License and Pledge of Inventory for an All Forms 7 Day Package Store License (Private).



Existing Package Store License
Change of Officers/Directors and Transfer of Stock

12. New Reliable Market Inc d/b/a Reliable Market, 45 Union Square Somerville, requesting approval of a Change of Officers/Directors and Transfer of Stock.
(ALM24-000051)

Current Officers/Directors and Stock Interest:

Current Officers/Directors	Current Title/Position	Current Percentage of Ownership
Myo Smith	President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director, Shareholder	34%
Paul Casserly	Shareholder	33%
On Gu Cho	Shareholder	33%

Proposed Officer/Director and Stock Interest:

Proposed Officers/Directors	Proposed Title/Position	Proposed Percentage of Ownership
On Gu Cho	President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director, Shareholder	100%

Attorney Tyler Henseler appeared on behalf of the applicant and stated that this change in ownership percentage and control is being done for estate planning purposes, and that there will otherwise be no changes to the operation of the business. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.

Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. No members of the public offered comments on this item. Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved this Change of Officers/Directors and Transfer of Stock license amendment.



Existing Alcohol License
Change of Manager

13. DDH Hotel Somerville LLC d/b/a Holiday Inn Boston/Somerville, 30 Washington Street Somerville, requesting approval of a Change of Manager.
Current Manager: Ryan Burkart
Proposed Manager: Sean Smith
(ALM24-000049)

Sean Smith, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that they currently work at the establishment and are being promoted to replace the former manager, who changed jobs. Chair Lynch asked if the applicant has previously been an alcohol manager in the state and if they had any infractions, and the applicant stated they have experience as an alcohol manager with no infractions. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.

The Licensing Commission approved this Change of Manager license amendment.

New
Common Victualer License

14. Lollacai LLC d/b/a Lollacai, 147A Highland Ave, requesting approval of a Common Victualer License.
Hours of Operation:
Tues-Sun: 12pm-10pm
Indoor Seats: 8
(AL24-000028)

Tiago Ronchini, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that their business will be focused on selling acai bowls, and that they will not have entertainment by devices. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.

The Licensing Commission approved this application for a Common Victualer license.

15. The Buzzin' Bean LLC d/b/a The Buzzin' Bean, 237 Holland St Somerville, requesting the approval of a Common Victualer License.
Hours of Operation:
Sat-Sun: 7am-11pm
Mon: Closed
Tues-Fri: 7am-10pm
Indoor Seats: 18
(AL24-000030)



Jayashree Venkataraman, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that they have experience working in the restaurant industry, and that the proposed establishment will be a vegetarian coffee shop. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.

The Licensing Commission approved this application for a Common Victualer license.

Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Change of Hours

16. Atelier PRB LLC d/b/a PRB Boulangerie, 120 Beacon Street Somerville, requesting the approval of Change of Hours.

Current Hours of Operation: Indoor and Outdoor (Alcohol Service):

Mon-Sat: 8am-8pm, Sun: 10am-8pm

Current Hours of Operation: Indoor and Outdoor (Food Service):

Mon-Sun: 7am-8pm

Proposed Hours of Operation: Indoor and Outdoor (Alcohol Service):

Mon-Sat: 8am-12am; Sun: 10am-12am

Proposed Hours of Operation: Indoor and Outdoor (Food Service):

Mon-Sun: 7am-12am

(ALM24-000053)

Loic Le Garrec, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this amendment application is to update their recently approved new all forms alcohol license to extend the hours to accommodate dinner service into the evening. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.

Commissioner Allen recused himself from this item as an abutter.

The Licensing Commission approved this Change of Hours license amendment.



New
Adult-Use Marijuana Retail Establishment License, Group A

17. Core Empowerment LLC d/b/a Seed, 500 Medford Street Somerville, requesting approval of an Adult-Use Marijuana Retail Establishment License.

Hours of Operation:

Mon-Sun: 10am-10pm

(ME22-000007)

This item was continued from, and a public hearing occurred during, the 10/22/2024 Licensing Commission meeting.

Attorney Mike Ross appeared on behalf of the applicant. Chair Lynch stated for the record that the documentation received from the applicant was as requested during the October Licensing Commission meeting, and that he had no additional questions. Commissioner Allen stated for the record that the supplemental materials submitted were helpful. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.

Chair Lynch stated for the record that the applicant has: entered into a Host Community Agreement with the city, located real estate in a properly zoned district, has proposed hours compliant with the Licensing Commission's Rules, is not located within 300 feet of any prohibited abutters, has engaged in all required community outreach, and has demonstrated an ability to abide by and adhere to all applicable laws and regulations.

The applicant's Chief Operating Officer, Kristen Picard, stated that they will obtain the insurance required by the state once they receive their final license from the state board.

The Licensing Commission approved this Adult-Use Marijuana Retail Establishment (Group A) License with no conditions.



Existing Retail Marijuana

Change of Officers/Directors and Change of Ownership and Control Interest

18. Holistic Industries, Inc. d/b/a Liberty Cannabis, 304 Somerville Ave., requesting approval of a Change of Officers/Directors and a Change of Ownership and Control Interest.

<p>Current Owners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons with Direct or Indirect Control in Licensed Entity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Josh Genderson - CEO, Director ○ Beni Golani - Director ○ David Cohen - Secretary, Director • Persons With Indirect Control via Parent Company (Holistic Industries Inc. (DE)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ David Leider - Director ○ Richard Genderson - Director ○ Josh Genderson - CEO, Director ○ Zeeshan Hyder - CFO, Secretary ○ Jason Goldblatt - Director ○ John Byrnes - Director ○ Adam Verner - Director ○ Kirk Posmantur – Director 	<p>Proposed Owners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons with Direct or Indirect Control in Licensed Entity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Josh Genderson - CEO, Director • Persons with Indirect Control via Parent Company (Holistic Industries Inc. (DE)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ David Leider - Director ○ Cynthia Brighton - Director, Owner ○ Renfrew Brighton Jr. - Director ○ Howard Romanow - Director ○ Loren Roseman - Director ○ Karl Ziegler - Owner ○ William Ziegler - Owner
<p>Current Officers/Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Genderson - CEO, Director • Beni Golani - Director • David Cohen - Secretary, Director 	<p>Proposed Officers/Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Genderson - CEO, Director



Current Control Interest:	Proposed Control Interest:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons with Direct or Indirect Control in Licensed Entity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Josh Genderson - CEO, Director - 13.65% ○ Beni Golani - Director - 4.31% ○ David Cohen - Secretary, Director - 0.71% • Persons with Indirect Control via Parent Company (Holistic Industries Inc. (DE)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ David Leider - Director - 0.47% ○ Richard Genderson - Director - 7.67% ○ Josh Genderson - CEO, Director - 13.65% ○ Zeeshan Hyder - CFO, Secretary - 0% ○ Jason Goldblatt - Director - 0.7% ○ John Byrnes - Director - 0% ○ Adam Verner - Director - 4.13% ○ Kirk Posmantur - Director - 0% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Genderson - 5.43% • David Leider - 0.5% • Cynthia Brighton - 12.25% • Renfrew Brighton Jr. - 0% • Howard Romanow - 0% • Loren Roseman - 0% • William Ziegler - 12.25% • Karl Ziegler - 24.5%

(MEA24-000004)

Attorney Dan Hittman, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that this amendment application reflects a change of investment interest in the establishment at the parent level, but noted that the CEO and daily operations will not be changing. Attorney Hittman added that this proposed change was recently approved by the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC). The Commissioners asked no additional questions.



The Licensing Commission approved this Change of Officers/Directors and Change of Ownership and Control Interest license amendment.

Late Items

Special Alcohol Licenses

19. St. Anthony Parish, 12 Properzi Way, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License for Thayz and Deivid's Wedding, to be held indoors at 12 Properzi Way, on 12/14/24 from 8pm-1am. (Alcohol Service)
(PEL24-000256)

Raphael Alves, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated this is for an upcoming wedding that will host around 120 people. Commissioner Thomas asked who would be serving the alcohol, and the applicant responded that there will be volunteers accompanied by a TIPS certified bartender. Commissioner Thomas confirmed with the applicant that they would be purchasing the alcohol from an approved vendor.

The Licensing Commission approved this Special Alcohol License.

20. LEGO Discovery Center Boston, 598 Assembly Row, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License for LEGO Discovery Center Boston Adult Night, to be held indoors at 598 Assembly Row, on 1/8/25, 2/14/25, 3/12/25, 4/9/25, 5/14/25, 6/11/25, 7/9/25, 8/13/25, 9/10/25, 10/29/25, 11/12/25, 12/10/25 from 7pm-9:30pm. (Alcohol Service)
(PEL24-000257)

Rachel Meissner, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this is their annual application for special alcohol licenses to cover their monthly adults-only events, during which alcohol is served by a local brewery with TIPS certified bartenders. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.

The Licensing Commission approved this Special Alcohol License.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.