



**City of Somerville
Licensing Commission**

Regular Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday
July 15, 2025
6:00 p.m.
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 7:02 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 – Fire Department;
Captain Sean Sheehan – Police Department; Lieutenant Diogo DeOliveira – Police Department.

Communications

1. Minutes of the Regular Licensing Commission Meeting of 6/17/2025.

The Licensing Commission approved the minutes on a voice vote.

2. Communication from Commissioner Lynch, in his capacity as Chair, that the September 16, 2025, Licensing Commission meeting will be held via remote participation only.

The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.

3. Communication from Police Lieutenant Diogo DeOliveira regarding complaints received about H and P Restaurant Group LLC d/b/a Gauchao Brazilian Cuisine, 102 Broadway (AL24-000025).



Lieutenant DeOliveira explained to the Commission that since the ownership and operational management of this establishment changed in January 2025, the Police Department has received 62 calls to the licensee's address. These calls included one for an alleged shooting on April 27, 2025 involving patrons who left the establishment, as well as numerous others for noise disturbances and fights, all of which are happening late at night on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights.

Most recently, the Police issued two noise citations to the licensee during this past weekend, on Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13. Lt. DeOliveira continued that patrol officers have also observed instances where around 100 people were lined up outside the establishment to attend events that were advertised on social media. Lt. DeOliveira noted for the record that, due to the high number of issues and calls related to this licensee's establishment, patrol officers have needed to park outside and simply wait for something to happen, which takes resources away from policing other parts of the city. Finally, Lt. DeOliveira stated that the licensee's neighbors have been complaining about noise from this establishment with more frequency, and that local political officials have become involved as well.

Chair Lynch asked Manager Potere to confirm the licensee's closing hours, who stated they are 1:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 2:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. Manager Potere further clarified that the 2:00 a.m. service license was carried over from the previous owner of the establishment, who had not received previous complaints regarding crowds or noise. Manager Potere also stated that they do not have an Entertainment by Patrons license, which is required to operate a dance floor. Chair Lynch asked for the name of the alcohol manager of record, and Manager Potere replied the manager on their license is Rony Figueroa.

Chair Lynch asked if their license contains conditions that require a security detail, and Manager Potere replied that their license was granted and issued without condition.

Chair Lynch asked for comments from the other Commissioners. Commissioner Allen stated for the record that if an applicant came before the Commission requesting a 2AM alcohol service license amendment and they had the same record as this licensee, that he would recommend rejecting the application, and that amending the hours and the entertainment licenses for this establishment might be appropriate here. Commissioner Thomas stated for the record that he would like to hear from the licensee before making a decision.

Chair Lynch stated that this number of calls and complaints for this establishment is much higher than with the city's other licensees, and recommended that the licensee appear for a Show Cause hearing, and that a Special Meeting should take place in



advance of the regularly scheduled Licensing Commission meeting to be held in August.

Chair Lynch moved to hold a Special Meeting of the Licensing Commission before the next regularly scheduled meeting on August 19, 2025. The Licensing Commission approved this motion on a voice vote.

Chair Lynch moved to call the licensee, H and P Restaurant Group LLC d/b/a Gauchao Brazilian Cuisine, 102 Broadway (AL24-000025), before the Commission during a Special Meeting to show cause as to why their All Forms Alcoholic Beverages 7 Day Restaurant License, 2AM Closing License, Common Victualer License, Entertainment by Devices and Performers License, and 10AM Sunday License should not be modified, suspended, revoked or forfeited, or the hours during which alcoholic beverages made be reduced for alleged violations of the Somerville Licensing Commission Rules and Regulations. The Licensing Commission approved this motion on a voice vote.

4. The Catered Affair, P.O. Box 432 Hingham, MA notifying the Commission of an Event for Berkshire Partners for approximately 175 Guests, to be held at 598 Assembly Row, on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Alcoholic Beverages served by The Catered Affair).

The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.

Special Alcohol Licenses

5. Elizabeth Peabody House, 275 Broadway, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Winter Hill Community Festival, to be held indoors and outdoors at 275 Broadway, on 10/18/2025 from 11:00 a.m.to 5:00 p.m. with a rain date of 10/19/2025. (Alcohol Service). (PEL25-000090)

Continued from the June 17, 2025, Licensing Commission meeting.

The applicant did not appear for this item. The Licensing Commission continued it to the August meeting by unanimous consent and noted for the record that failure to appear for a third time may result in the application being rejected.



6. The Somerville Foundation, 5 Thorndike Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Davis Square Community Event, to be held outdoors at the Day Street parking lot on 9/4/2025 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., with rain dates of 9/5/2025 and 9/7/2025 (Alcohol Service).
(PEL25-000102)

Applicant Greg Nadeau appeared before the Commission and explained that this event will take place in the Day Street parking lot and that alcohol service would be conducted in an area that is separated from the main area with green tape, that IDs would be checked for everyone who enters the area, and that those over 21 would be issued wristbands. Commissioner Thomas asked if there were any issues with alcohol service when this event occurred in the past, and the applicant stated there were not.

Captain Richardson asked if there would be open-flame grilling at this event, and the applicant replied that they did not yet know. Captain Richardson stated that if any open-flame grills are to be used, that the Fire Department should be alerted.

The Licensing Commission approved this Special Alcohol License on a voice vote.

7. The Lawn Bar Inc, 300 Assembly Row, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for The Lawn Bar at Club Volo, to be held outdoors at 300 Assembly Row, from 7/20/2025 through 8/18/2025 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(SAL25-000003)

Applicant Emily Harding appeared before the Commission and explained that they have been a general manager for their company for 11 years and a beverage manager for six years. Commissioner Thomas asked if their alcohol was being purchased from an approved vendor, which the applicant confirmed.

The Licensing Commission approved this Special Alcohol License on a voice vote.



New
Common Victualer Licenses

8. Cava Mezze Grill LLC d/b/a Cava, 330 Foley Street, requesting approval of a Common Victualer License.

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Sunday: 10:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Indoor Seats: 36

(AL25-000012)

Applicant Marcus Carter appeared before the Commission and explained their concept is Mediterranean food with a Greek focus, including a mix of salads, grains, proteins, and a variety of toppings. Commissioner Thomas asked if their floor plan and layout is ADA accessible, which the applicant confirmed. Chair Lynch asked if the applicant is considering an alcohol license, and the applicant replied that alcohol is not an anticipated part of their business plan.

The Licensing Commission approved the New Common Victualer License on a voice vote.

9. Somerville Pie Company Inc d/b/a Domino's Pizza, 201 Elm Street, requesting approval of a Common Victualer License.

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Sunday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Indoor Seats: 22

(AL25-000014)

Applicant Yunus Karakus appeared before the Commission and stated that they are a current Domino's Pizza franchisee with 19 existing locations throughout the area, and that this would be their first in Somerville, replacing the ownership of an existing Domino's Pizza in Somerville.

The Licensing Commission approved the New Common Victualer License on a voice vote.



Existing Common Victualer License
Adding Entertainment by Devices Indoors

10. Los Tacos Hermanos LLC d/b/a Los Tacos Hermanos, 253 Washington Street, requesting approval of Indoor Entertainment by Devices License.
(ALM25-000021, amending AL24-000040)

Applicant Miguel Argueta appeared before the Commission and explained that this license is to add background music and television service for their restaurant, and that they would not be using it for performances or for any other loud music.

Commissioner Allen opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Commissioner Allen closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved the Entertainment by Devices license amendment on a voice vote.

Existing Alcohol License
Change of Category

11. EAD Entertainment LLC d/b/a Muse Paintbar, 461 Artisan Way, requesting approval of a Change of Category from Wine and Malt to All Forms Alcohol License.
(ALM25-000018, amending AL20-000008)

Applicant Andria DePillo appeared before the Commission and stated that this change of category is to add pre-designed cocktails to their wine and malt menu. Commissioner Allen asked if they have had any issues with their current license, and the applicant replied they have not, adding that all of their servers are TIPS certified. Chair Lynch asked how long they have been operating their wine and malt license, and the application replied about six years, and that they're in the process of renewing their lease.

Commissioner Allen opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Commissioner Allen closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved the Change of Category license amendment on a voice vote.



Late Item

Special Alcohol License

12. Warehouse XI, 11 Sanborn Court, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Warehouse Xi Music, to be held indoors at 11 Sanborn Court, from 7/18/2025 through 7/22/2025, 7/24/2025 through 7/28/2025, 7/31/2025, 8/1/2025, 8/2/2025, 8/5/2025, 8/7/2025, 8/9/2025, 8/14/2025 through 8/17/2025 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(SAL25-000004)

Applicant Peggy Morrissey appeared before the Commission and explained that these dates reflect small concerts for local independent artists, with one disco event. Commissioner Allen confirmed with the applicant that their servers remain TIPS certified.

The Licensing Commission approved this Special Alcohol License on a voice vote.