



**City of Somerville  
Licensing Commission**

**Special Meeting by Remote Participation**

**Tuesday  
July 29, 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 7:01 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;  
Lieutenant Diogo DeOliveira – Police Department.

**Violations**

1. Hearing for H and P Restaurant Group LLC d/b/a Gauchao Brazilian Cuisine, 102 Broadway, AL24-000025, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 138 §§ 23 and 64, to show cause as to why their All Forms Alcoholic Beverages 7 Day Restaurant License, 2AM Closing License, Common Victualer License, Outdoor Public Seating License, 10AM Sunday Opening License, and Entertainment by Devices and Performers Licenses should not be modified, suspended, revoked or forfeited, or the hours during which alcoholic beverages be reduced, for alleged violations of the following Somerville Licensing Commission Rules and Regulations:

**Somerville Licensing Commission Rule 1.09(a) –**

It shall be the obligation of licensees to ensure that a high degree of supervision is exercised over the conduct of the licensed establishment at all times. Each licensee will be held accountable for all violations that are related to the licensed premises to determine whether or not the licensee acted properly in the given circumstances.



Somerville Licensing Commission Rule 1.09(e) –

When any noise, disturbance, misconduct, disorder, act or activity occurs in the licensed premises, or in the area in front of or adjacent to the licensed premises, or in any parking lot provided by the licensee for the use of its patrons, which in the judgment of the Commission adversely affects the protection, health, welfare, safety or repose of the residents of the area in which the licensed premises are located, or results in the licensed premises becoming the focal point for police attention, or is offensive to public decency, the licensee may be held in violation of the license and subject to proceedings for suspension, revocation or modification of the license.

**Rony Figueroa, the licensee’s manager of record, and Michael Herrera, a representative, appeared before the Commission. Chair Lynch began by reading into the record the alleged violations of the Licensing Commission Rules. Representative Herrera responded by stating that they understood why they were appearing before the Commission and confirming that they received the certified letter regarding this show cause hearing. Chair Lynch also asked the licensee if they were aware of the discussion that took place regarding this license during the July 15, 2025 Licensing Commission meeting, and Representative Herrera confirmed that they were in attendance during that meeting and understood what was stated on the record by the Commissioners and Lieutenant (Lt.) DeOliveira.**

**Chair Lynch stated that the licensee was granted several licenses by the Commission during its October 2024 meeting, among them being a license to serve alcohol until 2AM on Fridays and Saturdays, and that this 2AM license was issued because the application was a transfer and the previous owners operated that license without issue or complaint for several years.**

**Commissioner Allen asked what measures have been taken to manage noise in response to complaints, and Representative Herrera replied that they listened to the Commissioners during the July 15 meeting and in the weeks since have reduced the volume of the music being played at their establishment, and that they have not received any complaints during that time. Commissioner Allen asked what measures were being taken to ensure crowds of people waiting to enter the establishment are not creating disturbances, and Representative Herrera replied that business has been slower recently, and that a security guard is typically stationed outside the establishment for crowd monitoring and control. Commissioner Allen asked about instances where patrons have been alleged to cause fights or other disturbances and whether they keep a list of patrons who should not be admitted to the establishment, and Representative Herrera replied that they do keep a list of patrons who would be denied admission and that security is aware of that list when stationed at the door.**



Commissioner Thomas asked what the licensee thinks are the issues with their management of their license, and Representative Herrera replied that noise has been one issue, and that they have since installed sound-absorbing padding to their walls and insulated their windows in an attempt to reduce the impact of music to neighbors. Representative Herrera added that they have also reduced the number of speakers in the establishment for the same reason.

Chair Lynch stated for the record that the Police have received 62 calls to this licensee's establishment since they took it over and began operation in January, and that a majority of those calls happen late at night and on the weekends. Chair Lynch also stated that many of the calls appear related to intoxicated patrons who have been overserved alcohol and reminded the licensee that any incidents caused by an intoxicated person leaving their establishment are the licensee's responsibility.

Manager Figueroa replied that they appreciate the Commissioner's concerns and agree that the number of police calls to their address has been unacceptable. Manager Figueroa continued that they have been more carefully and actively monitoring crowd size and the number of patrons they allow to enter the establishment, and that they go over all police calls with their employees to make sure everyone understands what happened. Manager Figueroa also offered to put together a plan of action and submit it to the Commission. Chair Lynch asked if the manager of record is in the establishment every weekend, and Manager Figueroa stated that they are not. Chair Lynch asked if the manager of record keeps a log of police calls, which Manager Figueroa confirmed. Chair Lynch asked if they have security cameras in the establishment, and Representative Herrera replied that they do have around 13 cameras. Chair Lynch asked how many security guards are present on the weekends, and Representative Herrera replied four, two inside and two outside, that they stay on the premises until around 2:00 a.m., and that they ask crowds to disperse if they see anyone present outside once the establishment has closed. Representative Herrera added that they would be willing to hire a police detail as well to cover crowds during those nights of the week. Commissioner Allen asked if the manager of record has kept notes regarding instances where police have been called to their establishment multiple times in one day, and Manager Figueroa stated they do not.

Chair Lynch asked what it means when a police call is reported for a "liquor violation," and Lt. DeOliveira stated that the label is applied just to mean that the establishment serves liquor, and not that the violation is related to alcohol service.

Commissioner Allen noted for the record that the licensee has a 2AM license, but that if a business with the licensee's track record applied for a 2AM license, they would not receive one, and therefore recommended removing it. Commissioner Thomas agreed, and further stated his concern is largely related to the noise in the



licensee's densely populated neighborhood. Chair Lynch agreed with the Commissioners regarding removing the licensee's 2AM service license and requesting a police detail for Friday and Saturday nights.

Chair Lynch proposed four motions for discussion: (1) revoke the licensee's 2AM License to serve alcohol and allow service until 1:00 a.m. only; (2) suspend the licensee's Entertainment by Devices License and Entertainment by Performers License, held in abeyance until October 31, 2025; and (3) amend the licensee's food and alcohol service hours to 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., held in abeyance until October 31, 2025; and (4) require the licensee to request a police detail on Friday and Saturday nights from August 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025. Chair Lynch clarified that "held in abeyance" means that, by way of example, more complaints, calls to the Police Department, fights, or firearms possession could result in the implementation of these disciplinary recommendations, and further clarified that what constitutes a triggering event will be determined in conjunction with the Police Department at the time an incident is reported.

Commissioner Allen expressed agreement with the proposed motions, and stated that the licensee should have taken action to correct based on the early calls to the police and not waited until disciplinary action by the Commission became necessary. Commissioner Thomas expressed agreement with the first motion, but not for the second or third motion, and stated that the licensee's responses to the Commission's questions make it seem like they do not have a firm grasp on how to coordinate their nightly operations, and further that it seems likely that they will be back before the Commission in the future. Lt. DeOliveira asked if the licensee held an Entertainment by Patrons License, and Manager Figueroa explained that they do not, and that although they do not have a dance floor, some patrons may occasionally dance to the music being played.

Chair Lynch moved to amend this license, AL24-000025, by revoking its 2AM License and changing its operating hours to end at 1:00 a.m., seven days per week. The Licensing Commission approved this motion on a voice vote.

Chair Lynch moved to amend this license, AL24-000025, by suspending its Entertainment by Devices License and Entertainment by Performers Licenses, held in abeyance until October 31, 2025. The Licensing Commission approved this motion on a voice vote.

Chair Lynch moved to amend this license, AL24-000025, by changing its operating hours to 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., seven days per week, held in abeyance until October 31, 2025. The Licensing Commission approved this motion on a voice vote.



**Chair Lynch moved to amend this license, AL24-000025, by requiring the licensee to request a police detail between the hours of 11:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights from August 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025. Chair Lynch stated for the record that if the licensee requests a police detail but one is not available, they will have satisfied this condition. The Licensing Commission approved this motion on a voice vote.**