



**City of Somerville  
Licensing Commission**

**Tuesday  
March 17, 2026  
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 ensure the accuracy of the date provided, do not rely on this information without first checking with the Secretary of the Licensing Commission.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joseph Lynch at 6:00 p.m. and adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

**Attendance:**

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

**Others present:**

Michael Potere – Assistant City Clerk; Lieutenant Francis Otting – Fire Department; Captain Diogo DeOliveira – Police Department.

**Communications**

1. Minutes of the Licensing Commission Regular Meeting of 2/17/26.

**The Licensing Commission accepted the minutes on a voice vote.**

**Special Alcohol License**

2. Dormition of the Virgin Mary, 29 Central Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for wedding reception, to be held indoors at 29 Central Street, on 5/9/2026 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service)  
(SAL26-000004)

**John Kourafalos, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this is for a private wedding reception for around 200 guests, that they will be purchasing alcohol from an authorized distributor, that the bartenders will be TIPS certified (a state-recognized alcohol server education program that teaches responsible alcohol service practices), and that the church has sufficient parking for**



all of the anticipated guests.

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

**New Private Club (Without Alcohol)**  
**Entertainment by Devices, Performers, and Patrons Indoor and Outdoor**

3. King's Court Comedy LLC d/b/a King's Court Comedy, 71 Union Square, requesting approval of a private club license (without alcohol) and entertainment by devices, performers, and patrons indoors and outdoors.

Hours of Operation:

Sunday-Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Thursday-Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Indoor Seats: 0

(AL26-000005)

Chair Lynch stated that this item was continued to this meeting from the November 18, 2025 Licensing Commission meeting, during which a public hearing was held.

Owen Nelson, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and summarized their proposed operations as being an arts ecosystem and a place for artists and comedians to come and create their art. Commissioner Allen asked about this business being described in the media as "420 friendly," and the applicant replied that "420 friendly" means that the establishment would be cannabis-friendly, and that members of the private club could consume cannabis on the premises. Commissioner Allen asked if the applicant has consulted with an attorney about this business model, which the applicant confirmed, adding that they are involved in the operation of similar private clubs in Cambridge and Worcester, and that the private consumption of cannabis products is permissible in Massachusetts. Commissioner Thomas asked if the applicant has had any issues or pain points at these locations, who replied that they have not. Commissioner Allen asked what forms the cannabis consumption would take, and the applicant replied edibles, beverages, and combustible consumption, all in designated areas of the private club.

Commissioner Allen asked Lt. Otting if smoking is permitted indoors in a private establishment, who replied that the fire code does not have an explicit prohibition, but that they are aware of no-smoking policies at other businesses in the city, and that they would defer to the Police Department on enforcement. Commissioner Allen asked Capt. DeOliveira for comment, who replied that the Police Department is concerned with enforcing consumption of marijuana in public, which is illegal in the city, so if the applicant's members consume marijuana in a public space, including any outdoor space attached to the premises, they could face fines and other enforcement from the city. Commissioner Allen asked if there would be



**outdoor consumption at the applicant's establishment, who replied they would comply with city law and prohibit consumption of marijuana outside on their porch.**

**Chair Lynch acknowledged there is a distinction between public and private consumption, and added that this application for a private club license may be more open to the public than a typical private club license issued by the Commission. Chair Lynch asked Assistant City Clerk Potere if there have been any public comments on this application, who replied there were none. Chair Lynch asked the applicant if there would be structural changes to the establishment's premises in the building, who replied there would not be.**

**Chair Lynch stated that the city does not permit or license public social consumption of cannabis, and that if granted, this license would not be a statement from the city that cannabis social consumption is permissible or otherwise approved or endorsed. Chair Lynch added further that granting this license does not imply that a person purchasing a cannabis product at the licensed retail establishment below and bringing it to this private club is endorsed by the city. Chair Lynch stated that, if granted, this license allows only what is represented in the application: a private club license (without alcohol service) and an entertainment by devices, patrons, and performers license. Chair Lynch also added that, from the Commission's perspective, granting this license will reflect an understanding that any plans for regulated, licensed social consumption would be plans for the future, which the applicant confirmed. Chair Lynch concluded that, if this club license is granted, whatever the applicant chooses to do in that space with their members is at the applicant's own risk.**

**Chair Lynch asked Assistant City Clerk Potere to confirm with the City Attorney if there are exclusivity requirements for a private club license, which Assistant City Clerk Potere stated he would do.**

**The Licensing Commission approved this Private Club (Without Alcohol) License, Entertainment by Devices Indoor License, Entertainment by Performers Indoor License, and Entertainment by Patrons Indoor License on a voice vote.**



**New**  
**Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices**

4. 617 Subs LLC d/b/a Jersey Mike's Subs, 365 Revolution Drive, requesting approval of a common victualer license and entertainment by devices license.

Hours of operation:

Monday-Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Indoor Seats: 18

(AL26-000002)

**Thomas Young, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated this application is to open a Jersey Mike's sandwich franchise. The Commissioners confirmed the hours and seat count reflected in the item.**

**Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.**

**The Licensing Commission approved this New Common Victualer License and Entertainment by Devices License on a voice vote.**

**Existing Private Club License**  
**Adding Entertainment by Devices, Performers, and Patrons**

5. Tufts University d/b/a Hotung Cafe, 44 Professors Row, requesting approval of an entertainment by devices, performers, and patrons license.  
(ALM25-000037, amending AL17-000026)

**Patti Klos, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this application is the result of student groups wanting to use this club space to have various events featuring karaoke and performers with small speakers.**

**Commissioner Thomas asked if these licenses have been discussed with campus security, which the applicant confirmed. Commissioner Allen asked if there would be any concern with noise disturbing neighbors, and the applicant replied that the club itself is on campus and only surrounded by student housing.**

**Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.**

**The Licensing Commission approved this Entertainment by Performers License, Entertainment by Patrons License, and Entertainment by Devices License on a voice vote.**



**Existing All Forms Alcohol License  
Change of Hours and 2AM License**

6. Na Perleras LLC d/b/a El Jalisco, 145 Broadway, requesting approval of a change of hours and 2AM license.

Current Hours (Alcohol Service):

Monday-Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Proposed Hours (Alcohol Service):

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Friday-Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Current Hours (Food Service):

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

Proposed Hours (Food Service):

Monday-Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Friday-Sunday: 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

(ALM26-000007, amending AL23-000044)

**Nelson Perlera, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this amendment is to extend the business hours to have alcohol service until 2:00 a.m., but that his business is not a club. Chait Lynch asked how long the business has been operating, and the applicant replied two years. Chair Lynch asked if the applicant has had any issues with police or any complaints during those two years, and the applicant stated they have not. Commissioner Thomas asked if there are plans for security staff, and the applicant replied that they are not very busy late at night, and that the customers are usually there to have drinks with meals.**

**Lt. Otting stated that the applicant has an exemplary record with the city regarding responsiveness and compliance with fire codes and regulations, and added that they have taken all appropriate measures to ensure the safety of the public.**

**Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.**

**The Licensing Commission approved this Change of Hours amendment and the 2AM Alcohol Service License on a voice vote.**



**Pending All Forms Alcohol License**  
**Alteration of Premises**

7. The Lawn Bar Inc d/b/a The Lawn Bar, 301 Assembly Row, requesting approval of an alteration of premises.  
Current Square Footage:  
2,943 square feet  
Proposed Square Footage:  
Approximately 70,000 square feet (as depicted in floor plan)  
(ALM26-000004, amending AL25-000006)

**Chris Damian, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated this amendment is to expand alcohol service to include the volleyball and pickle ball courts at VOLO in Assembly Square, which explains the requested large increase in square footage. Commissioner Allen asked if the expanded area is fenced in, which the applicant confirmed.**

**Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.**

**The Licensing Commission approved this Alteration of Premises amendment on a voice vote.**

**Existing Common Victualer License**  
**Change of Hours**

8. Juice Joint LLC d/b/a Tropical Smoothie Café, 22 McGrath Highway, requesting approval for a change of hours.  
Current Hours:  
Monday-Sunday: 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Proposed Hours:  
Monday-Sunday: 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.  
(ALM26-000011, amending AL25-000015)

**Attorney Adam Dash, representing applicants Dishant Patel and Lakhvir Singh, who were also present, appeared before the Commission and explained that these extended hours would primarily serve delivery and takeout orders, where the order would be placed and be picked up at a service window. Attorney Dash added that Ward Two City Councilor J.T. Scott was consulted about this application and expressed support for the change.**

**The Licensing Commission approved this Change of Hours amendment on a voice vote.**



9. Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC d/b/a Chipotle Mexican Grill #1036, 274-276 Elm Street, requesting approval of a change of hours.  
Current Hours (Indoor and Outdoor Private Patio):  
Monday-Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Proposed Hours (Indoor and Outdoor Private Patio):  
Monday-Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.  
(ALM26-000012, amending AL17-000211)

**The applicant for this item did not appear during this meeting. The Licensing Commission continued this item to the April 2026 meeting by unanimous consent.**

**Existing Marijuana Establishment License**  
**Change of Address**

10. Union Leaf Inc d/b/a Cookies, 71 Union Square, requesting approval of a change of address.  
Current Address:  
71 Union Square  
Proposed Address:  
72 Union Square  
(MEA26-000001, amending ME19-000008)

**Binoj Pradhan, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this application is to amend the street address for their license to avoid overlapping with the applicant for 71 Union Square, King's Court Comedy, AL26-000005. The applicant also explained that the original plan was to use the second floor of their building, which is the subject of the King's Court Comedy application, as an educational space for marijuana, but that the economy has changed in the five years since that plan was proposed. Commissioner Thomas asked if this would change the entrance of the building, and the applicant replied it would not, but that a door would be constructed to separate the spaces.**

**Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.**

**The Licensing Commission approved this Change of Address amendment on a voice vote.**



### **Late Items**

### **Communication**

11. Communication from Commissioner Lynch in his capacity as Chair reminding licensees and applicants that the City of Somerville 2026 Outdoor Dining season begins on April 1, 2026 and ends on November 30, 2026.

**Chair Lynch asked Assistant City Clerk Potere about the number of outdoor dining applications for the current season, who replied that there were a few new applications, but overall the number of outdoor dining licenses was relatively flat, if not decreasing slightly.**

**The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.**

### **Special Alcohol**

12. Warehouse XI, 255 Washington Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Live Music Series, to be held indoors at 255 Washington Street, on 3/19/2026, 3/20/2026, 3/21/2026, 3/26/2026, 3/27/2026, 3/28/2026, 3/29/2026, 4/3/2026, 4/4/2026, 4/8/2026, 4/9/2026, 4/10/2026, 4/11/2026, 4/12/2026, 4/14/2026, 4/16/2026, 4/17/2026, and 4/18/2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. (Alcohol Service) (SAL26-000005)

**Peggy Morrissey, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that these events are for local bands to perform at their venue, and that there are otherwise no changes from previous applications.**

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