

**From:** [Denise Provost](#)  
**To:** [LICENSING](#)  
**Subject:** Parlor Bird, 151 Cedar Street, license application  
**Date:** Thursday, June 11, 2026 12:31:02 PM

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To the Chairman and Members of Somerville Licensing Commission:

I am writing in support of issuance of all licenses requested by Parlor Bird Inc d/b/a Parlor Bird, at 151 Cedar Street, Somerville.

I am confident that Emily Balkam, the proprietor of this business, is a responsible and and suitable person to run an establishment of the nature and size of Parlor Bird.


The concept of this establishment is an imaginative one, more varied and inclusive than is typical.

Given its central location along the Community Path, Parlor Bird will be an amenity that enlivens the area. From an urban design viewpoint, it connects the public space of the Path with the otherwise enclosed and private building so closely adjacent to it.

Altogether, the proponent offers Somerville a new third space asset that will rapidly become a highly frequented community destination.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Provost

  
Somerville, MA 02143

June 8, 2026

**Re: Public Comment in Opposition — Application by Parlor Bird Inc., 151 Cedar Street, Somerville, MA — All-Forms Alcohol License, Entertainment License, and Outdoor Dining Permit**

Dear Chair and Members of the Somerville Licensing Commission,

We are residents of [REDACTED], Somerville, MA 02144, immediate abutters to the mixed-use building at 2 Alpine Street. Our unit is approximately 25 yards to the proposed outdoor patio at 151 Cedar Street, placing our living and sleeping quarters within close proximity of the applicant's proposed entertainment and dining areas. We submit this letter in strong opposition to the scope of the licenses sought and respectfully request that the Commission either deny the applications in part or impose the specific, legally binding conditions set forth below.

We recognize that commercial activity in Somerville supports a vibrant city, and we do not oppose the opening of a restaurant at this location. However, the specific combination of all-forms alcohol service, live and patron-led entertainment, and unrestricted outdoor dining at this address is incompatible with the residential character of this block and would violate the reasonable expectations of the many households that abut this property.

### **I. Residential Character of the Surrounding Area**

Unlike the many commercial centers in Somerville such as Union Square and Davis Square, and the major roads such as Highland Avenue and Broadway, the intersection of Cedar and Alpine Streets is a quiet, established residential neighborhood. As is true in all other residential streets and neighborhoods in Somerville, there are no comparable entertainment venues within several blocks of this neighborhood. Introducing a venue of this scale — with full liquor service, live music, and outdoor dining — is inconsistent with the nature and character of this neighborhood and would affect the many residents of the surrounding buildings including us.

### **II. Entertainment License — Requested Conditions**

The applicant seeks entertainment licenses covering live performances ("by Performers") and patron-led activities including karaoke and dancing ("by Patrons"). The proposed venue is located in an acoustic enclosure directly below residential bedrooms. Somerville's Noise Ordinance (Chapter 13 of the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances) prohibits unreasonable noise that disturbs the peace, quiet, and comfort of neighboring residents.

*We request the following conditions:*

1. Denial of the "by Performers" (live music/bands) and "by Patrons" (karaoke/dancing) entertainment categories in their entirety with restriction of music to low-volume ambient background sound played by device, or at a minimum,

2. A strict condition that no music — whether live or amplified through speakers — be broadcast outdoors at any time.

### **III. Alcohol License — Requested Conditions**

An all-forms alcohol license at this location introduces material risk of late-night rowdiness, crowd noise, and public safety concerns in a residential corridor with no late-night commercial uses nearby. We are prepared to accept a beer-and-wine license with appropriate conditions as a reasonable compromise.

*We request the following conditions:*

3. Limitation of the license to beer and wine only;
4. Indoor alcohol service only, with a hard cutoff of 10:00 PM; and
5. No alcohol or food served on the outdoor patio after 9:00 PM, with all outdoor furniture cleared and secured by 9:30 PM.

### **IV. Waste Management — Requested Conditions**

The physical footprint of 151 Cedar Street directly abuts residential property lines and the Somerville Community Path. Improper storage of commercial food waste creates documented risk of rodent infestation affecting neighboring residents.

*We request the following conditions:*

6. All commercial food waste and refuse containers must be stored entirely indoors in an enclosed, climate-controlled space; and
7. Commercial trash hauling is prohibited before 7:00 AM or after 7:00 PM.

### **V. Delivery Logistics — Requested Conditions**

This structure was approved with zero off-street motor vehicle parking spaces. Large delivery vehicles servicing a food-and-beverage establishment will foreseeably double-park on Cedar Street, obstructing traffic and protected bike lanes, or block the driveways and garage entry points serving residents of Alpine Street.

*We request the following conditions:*

8. Deliveries restricted to small box trucks only, during off-peak hours between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM; and
9. The applicant is required to fund and maintain a designated, clearly marked 15-minute loading and pickup zone satisfactory to the City Traffic Engineer.

### **VI. Summary of Requested Conditions**

For the Commission's convenience, we summarize the conditions we request be imposed as a condition of any license granted:

- Entertainment: No live performers; no patron-led entertainment (karaoke/dancing); ambient device music indoors only; If you choose to give permission, no amplified or outdoor sound.
- Alcohol: Beer and wine only; indoor service until 11:00 PM; no outdoor service after 9:00 PM; outdoor furniture cleared by 9:30 PM.
- Waste: Indoor enclosed refuse storage; trash hauling between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM only.
- Deliveries: Small box trucks; 9:00–11:00 AM only; applicant-funded designated loading zone.

We respectfully request that this statement be entered into the official public record. We remain available to provide additional information or to appear before the Commission and thank the Chair and Members for their careful consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Deniz Ozel, M.D.

Murat Anamur, M.D.

[REDACTED]

Somerville, MA 02144

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Liz Connaughton](#)  
**To:** [Phillip Connaughton](#); [LICENSING](#)  
**Subject:** Statement of Concern: Parlor Bird Inc.'s application of multiple licenses pose multiple dangers to their neighbors.  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2026 9:02:29 AM

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**June 16, 2026**

**Statement of Concern: Parlor Bird Inc. License Application**

Liz Connaughton

[REDACTED], Somerville, MA 02144

I am writing to express my opposition to Parlor Bird Inc.'s pending applications for a full alcohol license, entertainment permits (including entertainment by devices, live performers, and patron participation), and private outdoor dining at 151 Cedar Street.

**NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER**

This location is directly surrounded by private residences. The density of homes in close proximity makes it an inappropriate setting for a high-activity commercial establishment of this nature. The previous tenants were businesses like physical therapists and accounting that were quiet and operated hours that didn't conflict with the neighborhood.

**PARKING, TRAFFIC, AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

The building was designed without public parking. There is no space for vehicle drop-off and pick-up, and all existing parking in the area is reserved for residents. And the residents currently use all the parking spaces, so changing that shouldn't be permitted either.

This crosswalk in front and next to this business already poses a danger to pedestrians and cyclists. I have personally witnessed multiple near-miss incidents involving cyclists and pedestrians due to existing congestion and the building blocking visuals. Given these conditions, I do not believe there is adequate space for outdoor dining at this location at all. Outdoor seating encroaching on the bike path — combined with the noise and distraction of live entertainment — will dramatically increase the risk of serious injury to cyclists and pedestrians.

If any exterior space is allocated to this business, it should be used for proper bike storage, not dining. Currently, cyclists have no option but to lock to street signs, which is entirely inadequate for a business situated directly next to a bike path. That problem should be solved before anything else is approved.

**PEST CONTROL**

Our neighborhood is already struggling with a rat infestation. A restaurant with outdoor dining and on-site alcohol service will generate food waste that can dramatically worsen this problem. Any approval must require that Parlor Bird Inc. implement rigorously secured trash storage and a proactive pest management plan — and that compliance be verified regularly.

**IMPACT ON FAMILIES**

The surrounding parks make clear that this is a family neighborhood where residents have

chosen to raise children. Outdoor dining combined with live entertainment and alcohol service will generate significant noise at hours that conflict with children's schedules. I ask that strict operating hours be established and enforced as a condition of any approval.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY AND FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES

If these licenses and permits are approved, I strongly urge the board to attach meaningful financial penalties to any violations. Local residents have already absorbed significant strain from the transition of this building from its previous tenant — including prolonged construction noise, repeated street closures, water shutoffs, torn-up streets, and increasingly frequent power outages. A building of this size alone places considerable burden on the surrounding community. Residents should not also have to bear the cost of a business that fails to follow the rules. Any approval should include enforceable consequences that give this community real recourse if Parlor Bird Inc. does not hold up its end.

I urge the board to carefully weigh these concerns before moving forward.

I will try to attend this evening in person to express these concerns as well, but arranging alternative childcare at this time of day isn't always possible for me.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LICENSING](#)  
**Cc:** [Pat Dougan](#)  
**Subject:** concerns about Parlor Bird 151 Cedar St  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2026 11:20:34 AM

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Hello,

I live at [REDACTED], two doors away from 2 - 4 Alpine St, the new 28 unit development. I am pleased that 2 - 4 Alpine St will eventually provide additional and much needed rental property in the neighborhood.

I am, however, very concerned about the proposed Parlor Bird Cafe since, as I understand, it is proposing to have live music. This is a quiet residential neighborhood and I would be opposed to music being played anytime in the evenings.

Thank you,

Pat Dougan  
[REDACTED]

Pat Dougan  
[REDACTED]