



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER**

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Commissioners Present: Anthony Vigliotti, Chair
Charran Fisher, Commissioner
Maritza Cruz, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present: Sergeant Thomas Needham, Worcester Police Department
Officer Patrick Harrington, Worcester Police Department
Alexandra Kalkounis, Worcester Law Department
Paul Payer, Worcester Law Department
Deborah Steele, Licensing

Call to Order – 10:00 A.M.

Minutes: February 1, 2024

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of February 1, 2024.

One Day Liquor & Entertainment Requests

1. **St. Joan of Arc, 570 Lincoln Street**
Request for one day liquor license
 - **Saturday – February 24, 2024 – 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

Kathleen O'Rourke appeared upon behalf of the application. She stated that they are hoping to get at least 100 people at the event, and they have certified bartender for the event.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day liquor licenses.

List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor license received and dated January 15, 2024.

2. **Worcester Center for Crafts, 25 Sagamore Road**
Request for one day liquor license

- **Saturday- March 2, 2024 – 5:00 p.m. – 8: 30 p.m.**

No one appeared for the item. Staff reviewed the application for the Commission members.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day liquor license.

List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor license received and dated January 25, 2024.

**3. Worcester Public Schools Visual Art Department, 25 Sagamore Road
Request for one day liquor license**

- **Thursday-March 14, 2024 – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Katherine Rice, participating remotely, stated that this event is to show support for Worcester Public School art teachers. There will be a TIP certified bartender and the event will be monitored by staff.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day liquor license.

List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor license received and dated January 10, 2024.

**4. Lupus Foundation of New England, Worcester Common
Request for one day liquor license**

- **Saturday – June 8, 2024 -11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

No one appeared for item.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the February 29, 2024, License Commission meeting.

**5. Elizabeth Purdy, 413 Park Avenue (outside)
Request for one day liquor license**

- **Sunday- March 10, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Request for one day entertainment license for jukebox, live music, recorded music.

- **Sunday-March 10, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Elizabeth Purdy, participating remotely, stated that this is request for outside during the St. Patrick's Day Parade. She stated that there will be fencing off the back lot with temporary fences to contain patrons at the outdoor beer tent. Employees will be at fenced area to ensure patrons don't leave the enclosed area. They will also have porta potties outside.

Chair Vigliotti asked how the IDs would be check. Ms. Purdy stated that IDs would be checked by staff when people enter the fenced in area and if there is a question on the ID the person would be sent to front of business have ID would need to go through the scanner.

Chair Vigliotti stated that other requests for parade have been approved to 6:00 p.m. so the Commission will remain consistent on the end times.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day liquor and one day entertainment licenses with an end time of 6:00 p.m.

List of Exhibits:

- A. *Application for one day liquor license received and dated February 3, 2024.*
- B. *Application for one day entertainment license received and dated February 3, 2024.*

**6. JCC Camp Scholarship Fundraiser, 633 Salisbury Street
Request for one day entertainment license for live music**

- **Saturday-March 2, 2024-6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

No one appeared for item.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the February 29, 2024, License Commission meeting.

**7. Boys & Girls Club of Worcester, 65 Boys & Girls Club Way
Request for one day liquor license**

- **Thursday-March 21, 2024 – 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.**

No one appeared for item.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the February 29, 2024, License Commission meeting.

Common Victualer Requests

8. Root Awakening Kava Bar, 180 Harding Street

- **Sunday-Monday-Noon-11:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday-Saturday-Noon-Midnight**

Gregory Gately and Michael Germain, participating remotely, stated that this will be for a kava bar for a location on Harding Street.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the common victualer license.

List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license received and dated January 30, 2024.

9. Sazon Bar & Grill, 795 Main Street

- **Sunday-Saturday-8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.**

Pedro De La Cruz, participating remotely, stated that he will be opening a second location in Worcester at this site and that he will be applying for a liquor license for location at future date.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the common victualer license.

List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license received and dated January 30, 2024.

Alcohol/Entertainment Requests

10. Assumption University dba Pierre's Pub, 500 Salisbury Street

- **Request for entertainment license for jukebox, tv, radio, recorded music, live music, amplification system, moving picture show, theatrical exhibition, karaoke.**

Christine M. Graziano, participating remotely, stated that the pub had open last weekend and now would like to add the entertainment license.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the entertainment license.

List of Exhibits: Application for entertainment license received and dated January 29, 2024.

11. Tatnuck Country Club, 1222 Pleasant Street

- **Request for change of manager**

Francisco Ventura appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that he will be the new manager of the premises.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the change of manager.

List of Exhibits: Application for change of manager received and dated January 17, 2024.

12. Deep Corporation dba Speedy Mini Mart, 408 Plantation Street

- **Request for package store malt & wine license**

Attorney Matthew Porter, participating remotely, stated that his clients are looking for a beer and wine license and this is a small store and there no other package stores in the immediate area.

Chair Vigliotti stated that the Commissioners had viewed the site prior to the meeting.

Upon a roll call vote the Commissioners voted 3-0 to approve the package store malt & wine license.

List of Exhibits: Application for package store malt & wine license received and dated January 10, 2024.

13. Resuli LLC, 171 Stafford Street

- **Request for restaurant all alcohol license**

Ira Resuli, participating remotely, stated that she is looking to obtain the liquor license. She stated that she submitted photos of where liquor would be stored that the Commission had requested at a previous meeting. She stated that they would be open from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and that she looking to mainly serve mimosas.

Commissioner Fisher asked why Ms. Resuli would looking for a full liquor license when she only planned to serve mimosas.

Chair Vigliotti stated that they viewed the premises at a previous meeting, and they had great concern about the storage area and seating and the fact it was a breakfast and lunch only establishment and asked if she still wanted to obtain a full liquor license. Ms. Resuli stated that she still looking for full liquor license.

Commissioner Fisher stated that she had concerns as request seems a little robust for a breakfast place.

Commissioner Cruz asked why Ms. Resuli needed a full liquor license if only wanted to serve mimosas. Ms. Resuli stated that in case she does offer different types of drinks in future she like to have the full license but in beginning it just mimosas.

Ms. Resuli stated no that will not be full bar and the focus will always be the food and the drinks are something that customers have requested.

Chair Vigliotti asked how she planned to check ID. Ms. Resuli stated that she asked for IDs from customers and that she is willing to do everything that needs to be done to create a safe environment.

Commissioner Fisher stated that she still has concern that it is full alcohol request for business like this and she is not confident that applicant has looked into properly what is required to serve alcohol.

Commissioner Cruz stated that she agreed with Commissioner Fisher, and this is just a breakfast and lunch establishment.

Chair Vigliotti stated that Commission has concern with the location and the seating and whether there is a need for a full liquor license at this location but does not feel the Commission would have problem with a beer and wine license request.

Upon a motion and seconded the Commission voted 3-0 to deny the request for a restaurant all alcohol license as they did not feel this was a proper location or facility for a full liquor license.

List of Exhibits: Application for restaurant all alcohol license received December 11, 2023, and dated July 6, 2023.

14. GV Lounge Kelley Square LLC, 11 Kelley Square

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone item to the February 29, 2024, License Commission meeting.

Other Business

15. Paku Corporation, 215 Chandler Street

- **Request to credit 2023 liquor license to year 2024 liquor license**

Jose Rivera, participating remotely, stated that in 2023 they paid for liquor license but didn't have chance to use it because of change of management and then in summer of 2023 the fire department said they needed a sprinkler system for entire building and they decided to open for a month without liquor but sales were very poor so they decided to close and they are working with owner of building to have sprinkler system installed. Mr. Rivera stated that the sprinkler system should be installed in April, and they are just requesting that the payment for the 2023 liquor license fee paid be applied to 2024.

Commissioner Fisher stated that the Commission needs to be careful about setting about precedent about doing this.

Chair Vigliotti stated that he would concur with Commissioner Fisher so he would motion that the request be denied.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to deny the request.

List of Exhibits: Email from Jose Rivera request fee waiver dated January 10, 2024.

Violation Hearings

16. Dream 6 Estate LLC dba Dream Market, 369 Burncoat Street

- **Violation of Rules #6, #21-Sale to minor, manager violation**

Samuel Boiquaye along with his attorney Al DeNapoli appeared upon behalf the violation.

Sergeant Needham presented the following.

On November 18, 2023, Officer Patrick Harrington and members of the Alcohol Enforcement Unit conducted compliance checks on various package stores throughout the city. A 17-year-old male accompanied the officers during the evening. The underage male was instructed to enter a package store and attempt to purchase a six pack of Corona bottles without providing identification. The male was

instructed if asked for identification to politely inform the clerk he did not have one. The male was instructed not be confrontational at any time if not sold the item and to leave the store. The male was given the same instructions every time he entered a different store. Prior to departing and upon return to the police station the male was administered an alcohol breathalyzer test.

As the underage male entered the stores Officer Harrington had an unobstructed view of the entrance and the times were noted upon entry. During the checks the male attempted to purchase alcohol from 20 stores.

At 11:06 a.m. the 17-year-old male entered Dream Market. The male approached the female clerk at which time she asked for his identification, and he informed her he did not have any. A patron behind him offered the clerk her I.D. and the store allowed the underage male to pay and carry of the Corona which is an alcoholic beverage.

Mr. DeNapoli stated that Mr. Boiquaye' s mother was behind the counter at the time of the incident.

Mr. DeNapoli stated the report is correct as Mr. Boiquaye' s mother believed that the person who presented the ID was with the individual who came in and didn't know they weren't together. Mr. DeNapoli stated that the store is very responsible, and they have a scanner that the store uses at all the time and Mr. Boiquaye as well as his mother are server trained.

Mr. DeNapoli stated that based on the circumstances if the Commission finds a violation that only a warning be imposed.

Chair Vigliotti stated that his concerns that person who did purchase the liquor bought it for someone who was underage, and he recommended a two-day suspension with one day served.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 that the violation did occur.

Upon a call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to impose a two-day suspension with one day to be served on February 24, 2024.

List of Exhibits: Police Report dated November 20, 2023.

17. Worcester Randall Package Store, Inc., 108 Canterbury Street

- **Violation of Rules #6, #21-Sale to minor, manager violation**

Rajnikant Manuhbai Patel along with a translator appeared to answer to the violation and waived right to legal counsel.

Sergeant Needham presented the following.

On November 18, 2023, Officer Patrick Harrington and members of the Alcohol Enforcement Unit conducted compliance checks on various package stores throughout the city. A 17-year-old male accompanied the officers during the evening. The underage male was instructed to enter a package store

and attempt to purchase a six pack of Bud Light cans without providing identification. The male was instructed if asked for identification to politely inform the clerk he did not have one. The male was instructed not be confrontational at any time if not sold the item and to leave the store. The male was given the same instructions every time he entered a different store. Prior to departing and upon return to the police station the male was administered an alcohol breathalyzer test.

As the underage male entered the stores Officer Harrington had an unobstructed view of the entrance and the times were noted upon entry. During the checks the male attempted to purchase alcohol from 20 stores.

At 1:30 p.m. the 17-year-old male entered Worcester Randall Package Store Inc. and was able to purchase a six pack of Bud Lights cans which is an alcoholic beverage without providing any identification.

Members of the Alcohol Unit notified the store of the violation. While on scene it was determined that the staff serving the public did not have the proper serving training certificates.

Through the translator Mr. Patel stated that he was training a part time worker, and he was one who sold the alcohol without asking for ID and that employee was fired. He stated that when the officer asked for the server training certificates, they were expired but they now have current ones and sent them to the officer. He stated they have a scanner now and presented to Commission several fake IDs that the store has confiscated since installing the scanner.

Mr. Patel stated that the report was right, and they fired the employee, and they made a mistake and they trying to improve, and they are not serving anyone who doesn't have an ID.

Chair Vigliotti stated that the premises has had previous violations before City of Worcester. Mr. Patel stated that they also have a five-day suspension that they have to serve from the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, so they are just asking for a warning from the local board on this violation.

Chair Vigliotti stated that the violations seemed to be occurring a lot at this premises and violations are occurring too frequently.

Officer Harrington stated that going through police files that a few years ago the police assisted this establishment on the TIPS process certification as they had this violation before.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 that the violation did occur.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to impose a four-day suspension with two days served March 2, 3, 2024.

List of Exhibits: Police report dated December 5, 2023.

Communications

Web site link to guide to service animals

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/disability-rights-for-users-of-assistance-animals-> No comments

Adjournment

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m.