



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

Thursday, September 5, 2024

Commissioners Present: Anthony Vigliotti, Chair
Charran Fisher, Commissioner (participated remotely)
Maritza Cruz, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present: Sergeant Thomas Needham, Worcester Police Department
Alexandra Kalkounis, Law Department
Deborah Steele, Licensing

Call to Order – 10:00 A.M.

Minutes: August 22, 2024

Upon a motion made and duly seconded the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of August 22, 2024.

Requests for Continuances, Extensions, Postponements, & Withdrawals

One Day Liquor & Entertainment Requests

- 1. Amalia Arguello;90+ Cellars/Latitude Beverage Company, Salem Street/Franklin Street
Request for one day liquor license**
 - Saturday, October 5, 2024-4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**

Aliana Aichioson, participating remotely stated that they are looking for a one-day liquor license.

Ms. Steele stated that around 400 people are expected, and they have server training certificates and liquor will be purchased through a wholesaler.

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 permit received and dated August 28, 2024.

2. Plaza Sabados/side lot of 98 Beacon Street

Request for one day entertainment license for recorded music, amplification system

- **Saturday-September 7, 2024-Noon-4:00 p.m. rain date September 14, 2024**
- **Saturday-October 5, 2024, rain date October 6, 2024**

Jake, a representative from Plaza Sabados, participating remotely, stated they are adding some dates to what was previously approved. The September 7 will be now September 14, and they are adding October 5, 2024. They have their road closure permit and porta potties.

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

List of Exhibits: Application for one day entertainment permit received and dated August 30, 2024.

3. Our Lady of Providence Parish, 228 Lincoln Street

Request for one day liquor license

Request for one day entertainment license for dancing by patrons, live music, amplification system

- **Saturday-September 21, 2024-6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday-November 9, 2024-5:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday-February 8, 2025-6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday-March 9, 2025-Noon-6:00 p.m.**

Sister Miranda was participating remotely but could not get sound, so Ms. Steele reviewed the application with the Commission.

Ms. Steele reviewed the amount of attendees at each event. There are TIPS certified bartender and alcohol will be purchased from wholesaler.

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 permit received and dated August 30, 2024.

4. Italian Heritage Parade Family Festival, Christoforo Columbo (East Park)

Request for one day entertainment license for radio, dancing by patrons, dancing by entertainers, recorded music, live music, amplification system, play, moving picture show

- **Sunday, October 6, 2024-8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.**

Sean Russo appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that this will be a family event for kids. They will have porta potties and security will be there for the parade and then at the park.

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

List of Exhibits: Application for one day entertainment permit received and dated August 30, 2024.

Common Victualer Requests

5. **OM Grille, Inc., 118 Water Street**
- **Sunday-Saturday-11:00 a.m.-Midnight**

Gurma Shama appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that the restaurant will be for Indian Cuisine.

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 August 28, 2024.

6. **Quinsigamond Village Diner, 248 Greenwood Street**
- **Sunday-Saturday-5:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Playa Day appeared upon behalf of the application. She stated that is currently is Helen’s Bakery and she will continue that type of operation.

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

List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor permit received and dated August 28, 2024.

Alcohol/Entertainment Requests

None

Violation Hearing

7. **Jolo, Inc. dba Hurricane Betty’s, 350 Southbridge Street**
Violation of Rule #14

Pat Scorzelli and Mr. Fitzwilliams, the night manager of the premises, appeared upon behalf of the violation and waived their right to counsel.

Sergeant Needham presented the following.

FEBRUARY 17, 2024

On February 17, 2024, Sergeant Thomas Needham of the Worcester Police Department was conducting compliance checks when he observed a large number of cars outside Hurricane Betty’s.

Sergeant Needham observed that a number of entertainers were still inside the premises after hours and informed the night manager that the process needed to be more efficient and that only employees of the bar can remain on the premises after closing time and only for specific reason.

Sergeant Needham asked about the scanner which was a required device at premises. A condition imposed by the License Commission after violations occurring in March 2022 at Hurricane Betty's. A member of staff walked over to the end of the bar and retrieved what he said was the ID scanning device. The device's battery was depleted, and staff looked for a power cord and plugged it into the device. Upon plugging the power cord in, the screen eventually lit up and indicated that the battery was completely depleted, and the device would not function until at least a minimal charge for the battery was achieved. Sergeant Needham explained to staff and Joseph O'Grady, the owner, who was on scene, the condition regarding the scanner and they stated they understood the mandate.

JUNE 7, 2024

On June 7, 2024, Sergeant Needham and Officer Patrick Harrington went to Hurricane Betty's to conduct a follow up visit.

Upon entering the premises, they requested from security personnel where the ID scanner was. Security picked up a device that was hooked up charging and after a short warm up period the device powered on and appeared to be in functioning mode. Sergeant Needham requested security show him the screen that records the ID's that have been scanned. He handed Sergeant Needham the device and the screen indicated that the last ID's scanned were on June 3, 2024.

Sergeant Needham observed the patrons inside the premises and no ID's scans were recorded on June 7, 2024. Scrolling through the history of the device Sergeant Needham observed that there were five scans done on June 3, 2024, three scans done on June 2, 2024, and the next previous scan was done on May 4, 2024.

At this time the night manager arrived on scene and Sergeant Needham and Officer Harrington discussed with him the findings. The night manager stated something to the effect of, "I tell them every night to use the scanner."

The night manager was informed that the incident would be brought before the License Commission.

Mr. Scorzelli stated that he did not know about the two events, and they have talked to security, and they are going to talk to staff to fix it. They have a scanner, and staff are told to use the scanner.

Mr. Fitzwilliams stated that he does run a tight ship, and he does understand that they have to fix the scanner situation.

Mr. Fitzwilliams stated that he has to pay the girls at the end of the night and some nights are busier than others and he needs to know what time they need to be out of the building.

Chair Vigliotti asked if they were denying what Worcester Police present. Mr. Fitzwilliams stated no and it just that girls just waiting to get paid out.

Chair Vigliotti stated that is a big concern to the Commission and that the Commission put a number of conditions from the previous violations at the premises and one of the conditions was that the scanner had to be used.

Sgt. Needham stated that he had concerns as when he conducted surveillance there were many cars in the parking lot and saw many men coming in and out of business. On June 7 when he went to the location there were no scans on the scanner.

Mr. Scorzelli stated that if that what Sgt. Needham said happened it is what happened, and they obviously have internal issues and a scanner issue.

Commissioner Fisher stated that the scanner problem needs to be fixed.

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 issue a ten-day suspension.

List of Exhibits: Police Report dated June 2024.

Communications

None