



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

Thursday, December 19, 2024

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

Commissioners Absent:

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

Minutes: December 5, 2024, December 10, 2024

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of December 5, 2024, and December 10, 2024.

One Day Liquor & Entertainment Requests

1. Icon, 64 Dewey Street

- **Tuesday, December 31, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.**
- **Friday, January 3, 2025-10:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to allow for Leave to Withdraw of the applications.

Common Victualer Requests

2. Worcester Pizza, 1347 Main Street

Sunday Operating Hours*

9:00AM - 11:00PM

Monday Operating Hours*

9:00AM - 11:00PM

Tuesday Operating Hours*
9:00AM - 11:00PM

Wednesday Operating Hours*
9:00AM - 11:00PM
Thursday Operating Hours*
9:00AM - 11:00PM
Friday Operating Hours*
9:00AM - 11:00PM
Saturday Operating Hours*
9:00AM - 11:00PM

Abdul Ghani, participating remotely, stated that he is taking over an existing pizza restaurant.

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 December 6, 2024.

3. Fitbar, LLC, 75 Shore Drive

Sunday Operating Hours*
09:00am - 05:00pm
Monday Operating Hours*
09:00am - 09:00pm
Tuesday Operating Hours*
09:00am - 09:00pm
Wednesday Operating Hours*
09:00am - 09:00pm
Thursday Operating Hours*
09:00am - 09:00pm
Friday Operating Hours*
09:00am - 09:00pm
Saturday Operating Hours*
09:00am 06:00pm

Frank Desiderio, participating remotely, stated that this location is in the Y.

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 December 5, 2024.

4. Rio Roast Café, 250 Commercial Street

Sunday Operating Hours*
07:00 AM - 03:00 PM
Monday Operating Hours*
07:00 AM - 03:00 PM
Tuesday Operating Hours*

07:00 AM - 03:00 PM
Wednesday Operating Hours*
07:00 AM - 03:00 PM
Thursday Operating Hours*
07:00 AM - 03:00 PM
Friday Operating Hours*
07:00 AM - 03:00 PM
Saturday Operating Hours*
07:00 AM - 03:00 PM

Felicio Lana appeared upon behalf of the application and stated that this is an existing coffee shop that has been closed that he will be reopening.

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 December 5, 2024.

5. Flavor and Delight of Brazil, 560 Lincoln Street

Sunday Operating Hours*
06:00AM - 12:00AM
Monday Operating Hours*
06:00AM - 12:00AM
Tuesday Operating Hours*
06:00AM - 12:00AM
Wednesday Operating Hours*
06:00AM - 12:00AM
Thursday Operating Hours*
06:00AM - 12:00AM
Friday Operating Hours*
06:00AM - 12:00AM
Saturday Operating Hours*
06:00AM - 12:00AM

Rafael de Carvalho Costa appeared upon behalf of the application and stated that he is taking over the existing location.

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 December 10, 2024.

6. The Butcher Shop Casa Brasil Worcester, LLC, 247 Lincoln Street

Sunday Operating Hours*
7am to 9pm
Monday Operating Hours*
7am to 9pm
Tuesday Operating Hours*

7am to 9pm
Wednesday Operating Hours*
7am to 9pm
Thursday Operating Hours*
7am to 9pm
Friday Operating Hours*
7am to 9pm
Saturday Operating Hours*
7am to 9pm

Tiago Goncalves, participating remotely, stated that he is looking open Brazilian theme establishment at location.

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

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 December 5, 2024.

Alcohol/Entertainment Requests

7. Fiddler’s Pub of Worcester, Inc., 42 Green Street

- **Request for change of manager**

Michael Coonan appeared upon behalf of the application.

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 December 2, 2024.

8. LEPA Sports Bar, LLC, 1082 Main Street

- **Request for restaurant all alcohol license**
- **Request for common victualer license**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the January 9, 2025, License Commission meeting.

9. MMCIEJKA, Inc., 259 Park Avenue, Unit B

- **Request for transfer of license from Altea’s Eatery**
- **Request for pledge of license**

Attorney Matthew Porter, participating remotely, stated that the applicant is applying to take over the existing location as well a pledge of license.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the transfer of the license and pledge of license.

List of Exhibits: Application for transfer of liquor license and pledge of license received and dated November 19, 2024.

Other Business

10. Approval of 2025 liquor licenses

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the 2024 liquor renewal applications.

Status Hearing

11. Dream Catcher Farm Inc. dba Blackstone Herbs and Martini Bar, 102 Green Street

Juarez Iansen and Juliana Fernandes Iansen appeared upon behalf of the item.

Sergeant Needham read the following into the record.

The Worcester Police Department alcohol unit conducted an investigation regarding a single motor vehicle accident that occurred on October 6, 2024, on Park Avenue in Worcester resulting in the death of the operator. The investigation revealed that after leaving Ju's Bar and Grille located at 102-110 Green Street, the vehicle struck a utility traffic pole at Park Ave and Highland Street at a high rate of speed. As a result of the accident and death of the operator the Accident Reconstruction Team was called in that evening to investigate. Through their investigation it was determined that prior to the accident, the victim had been at Ju's Bar and Grille and had consumed alcohol at the establishment.

On October 16, 2024, at approximately 17:00 hours Officer Dimitrios Gaitanidis and Officer William Stout went to Ju's Bar and Grille on a follow up to an investigation conducted by members of the Accident Reconstruction Unit. The officers spoke to Juliana Fernandes Iansen and Juarez Iansen, who represented themselves as owners of the establishment¹, they were forthcoming and cooperative with the investigation. Officer Giatanidis was able to access the CCTV Ring video footage from the personnel computer with voluntary consent and permission from Ms. Iansen. Footage obtained was from the night of the incident (06 October 2024) and was transferred to a USB flash drive which was subsequently uploaded to Evidence.Com under the incident number. Officer Stout viewed the video in its entirety. The camera system is a Ring system with an accurate time stamp. The time stamp on the Ring video System matched the time on my Apple iPhone 14. The following is a summary of what was witnessed on the footage:

¹ The pending application has been approved by the License Commission but has not yet received final approval by the ABCC.

At approximately 6:08 victim enters the establishment which was captured by the front bar camera. At 6:13 victim is observed being served a mix drink at the front bar; video was captured by the front bar camera. Victim is observed at 6:14 handing the bartender her credit card. At 6:39 victim is observed being served and consuming her 2nd mixed drink. At 6:48 victim is observed at the front bar being served and consuming a 3rd drink, a shot of "Hennessy". At 7:03 victim is observed at the front bar being served 4th drink, a shot of alcohol. At 7:11 victim is observed at the front bar being served 5th mixed drink. At 7:56 victim is observed at the front bar ordering and being served 6th mixed drink. At 8:28 bartender delivers a flight of shots to the victim's table. Victim is observed picking up the shot of alcohol and consuming 7th drink. Victim is observed at 10:23 being served and consuming 8th drink, a shot of alcohol. At 10:46 victim is served 9th drink, mixed drink.

A handwritten Witness Statement was received by Police Officer Joseph Mitchell. The witness stated on 10-06-2024 at approximately 7:55 she and her niece arrived at Ju's Bar located on 102-110 Green St. While they were there, they were approached on the dance floor by the victim. Witness stated that the victim was constantly touching them and appeared to be very drunk. Witness stated that the victim was so intoxicated she didn't know what she was doing. Witness was concerned for the victim because the bartenders continued to serve her "more and more alcohol". At approximately 11:00 witness went to bathroom; inside the bathroom she observed the victim sitting on the toilet with her pants and head down. Witness asked the victim 2 times if she was ok, witness stated the victim didn't respond. Witness stated she moved closer to the victim and with a loud voice asked again if she was ok. Witness stated the victim could barely lift her head to ask for help. Witness immediately lifted her head and tried to lift her body up from the toilet to get her pants back on. Witness stated she called 911 from her cellphone, at the same time 2 females entered the bathroom yelling at the witness. They grabbed her cellphone and turned it off. Witness stated that the females threatened her and were criticizing how she was dressed. Witness grabbed her cellphone and left the bathroom. Witness stated she stayed outside the bathroom and observed the 2 females walk out of bathroom holding the victim by both arms.

Victim was observed at 11:25 at the front bar stumbling and unsteady on her feet, she is observed at 11:27 standing by the bar, she collapses to the floor in a seated position in front of bar staff that were on duty that night. A Staff member appears to laugh when the victim collapses to the floor. Victim is observed at 11:28 hours and 11:31 hours having difficulty keeping her balance. As the victim is staggering and stumbling, it appears on video that she is holding her car keys in her hand. At 11:34 hours the victim is observed leaving the establishment. After leaving Ju's Bar the victim was involved in single motor vehicle accident at Park Ave and Highland St. At approximately 11:41 hours our dispatchers received multiple 911 calls for a single vehicle motor vehicle accident at Park Ave and Highland St. Victim's vehicle crossed the double line on Park Ave and struck a traffic signal pole on south bound side of Park Ave at Highland St. At 11:49 hours the victim was pronounced deceased by the Medical Examiner for injuries sustained in the motor vehicle accident.

Officer Stout spoke with management of Ju's Bar on 10-16-2024, and with Juarez lansen and Juliana lansen both owners/bartenders who served the victim on 10-06-2024. Officer Stout asked for copies of their TIPs certifications which they provided. Both their TIPs certifications were active, and current, being issued on 04-12-2024. A third bartender who was observed on camera serving the victim and who was also present was identified as Ritha Preisigke. Her TIPs certification was not available and was emailed to Officer Stout a day later by the owner. Ritha Preisigke TIPs certification was issued on 10-10-2024, four days after she was observed on video serving the victim on 10-06-2024.

The video from inside Ju's Bar and Grille on the night of October 06, 2024, from of 6:08 when the victim arrived at the establishment and 11:34 when the victim is observed leaving the establishment, video evidence shows that the victim was served 5 mixed drinks and 4 shots of alcohol in approximately 5 hours and 26 minutes. Video evidence showed the victim throughout the night to be unsteady on her feet and staggering when she walked. Video also showed the victim collapse to the floor to a seated position prior to leaving at 11:34. Approximately 7 minutes after the victim leaves the establishment, she is involved in a single motor vehicle accident at Park Ave and Highland St resulting in the victim's death

Chair Vigliotti stated that he is aware Mr. Iansen is applying for new liquor license at location and will be heard at the January 9, 2025, License Commission meeting and informed him that he will be requested to address this at that meeting.

Communications

Email from Blackstone Herb & Martini Bar, surrender of liquor

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to accept the surrender of the license.

Adjournment

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 a.m.