



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

**Thursday, September 22, 2022**

**Commissioners Present:** Walter Shea, Chair  
Anthony Vigliotti, Commissioner  
Charran Fisher, Commissioner

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Sergeant Thomas Needham, Worcester Police Department  
Alexandra Kalkounis, Law Department  
Deborah Steele, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services

**Call to Order** – 10:00 a.m.

A moment of silence was hold for Barbara Haller who passed away early in the week.

**Minutes** – August 11, 2022, August 26, 2022, September 8, 2022

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of August 11, 2022 and August 26, 2022.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of September 8, 2022.

**Common Victualer Requests**

- 1. Jordan Deli & Shawarma LLC, 158 Belmont Street**
  - **Saturday-Sunday – 6:00 a.m. – Midnight**

Istabraq Almari appeared upon behalf of the application.

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

*List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer received and dated September 8, 2022.*

**2. Yalla Yalla, 80 West Street**

- **Saturday-Sunday-7:00 a.m. – Midnight**

Mustafa Sharif (participating remotely) stated that he was looking to open a restaurant.

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

*List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license received and dated September 13, 2022.*

**3. La Central Bakery & Café, Inc., 422 Main Street**

- **Saturday-Sunday-7:00 a.m. -9:00 p.m.**

Jessica Ortiz appeared upon behalf of the application and stated that she is looking to open a bakery in Downtown Worcester.

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 September 13, 2022.*

**One Day Liquor & Entertainment Requests**

**4. Megan Horgan, 486 Chandler Street**

**Request for one day liquor license**

- **Sunday - October 2, 2022 – 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Megan Horgan (participating remotely) stated that this will be for a 5k and fun run event at Worcester State and that there will be food trucks and alcohol served and they will have security present for the event.

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 September 9, 2022.*

**5. Red Bull Gaming Hub, 225 Shrewsbury Street**

**Request for one day entertainment license.**

- **Saturday-September 24, 2022 – 1:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

Ben Doucette (participating remotely) stated that this is for a gaming event that he is working with All Systems Go on. They expect about 75-100 people and will be blocking street and have spoken with Lt. Sawyer from police department regarding getting a detail.

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 license received and dated August 30, 2022.*

**6. H.20-3 Salem Square, 3 Salem Square**

**Request for one day entertainment license for car show**

- **Saturday-October 1, 2022 (rain date October 16, 2022) Hours to be discussed**

Miguel Pabon appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that this event will be raising money for autism and the event will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. He stated that he has hired a police detail and will have two porta potties for the event.

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 license received and dated September 15, 2022.*

**Liquor & Entertainment Application Requests**

**7. Behram Services LLC Pleasant Café, 318 Pleasant Street**

- **Request to amend entertainment license to add karaoke and light show**

Behram Khaled appeared upon behalf of the application and stated he was withdrawing the application.

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

**8. Jusstevein, Inc., dba 266 Park Avenue**

- **Request for restaurant all alcohol license with outside patio**
- **Request for common victualer license**

Stephen Hopkins appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that the second floor still needs to be renovated so will be few months before they actually open.

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

*List of Exhibits: Application for restaurant all alcoholic license and common victualer license received and dated August 15, 2022.*

Commissioner Vigliotti recused himself from item #9

**9. DP Restaurant Group LLC dba Lascala Ristorante & Steakhouse, 183 Shrewsbury Street**

- **Request to transfer restaurant all alcohol license from Three Stooges LLC**
- **Request for common victualer license**
- **Request for entertainment license for radio, tv, background music**

Attorney Sean McGrail, participating remotely, stated that this will be for a transfer of license and there will be no changes to the premises except maybe adding other food items.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the restaurant all alcohol license, common victualer license and entertainment license received and dated September 6, 2022.

**10. Mirna's Foods Inc. dba Star Pizza & Variety, 1280 Grafton Street**

- **Request for change of officers/directors.**

Attorney Gerald Shgrue and Ayman Youssef, participating remotely, stated that this was a request for a change of officers/directors.

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

*List of Exhibits: Application for change of officers/directors received and dated June 28, 2022.*

**11. Cannabis of Worcester LLC, 56 aka 62 Millbrook Street**

- **Request for Retail marijuana license**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the October 6, 2022 License Commission meeting.

**12. Gupta's Sons Corporation dba Lucky Farms Variety Store, 759 Grafton Street**

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

Raymund Lopolito and Ankit Gupta appeared upon behalf of the application.

Chairman Shea stated that the Commissioners had done a view of the premises prior to the meeting.

Mr. Lopolito stated that they are looking to obtain license for beer and wine for the convenience store.

Chairman Shea stated that the applicant had been before the Commission previously for a beer and wine license and was denied and nothing has changed since the last time. He stated that 500 yards from the store there is a full package store and he believes the area adequately served.

Mr. Lopolito stated that the amount a traffic this store will be minimal impact to other store and this license would be beneficial for the city as would generate additional tax revenue.

Commissioner Vigliotti stated that in driving the neighborhood and knowing the neighborhood the area is already adequately served. There are three package stores within a quarter of mile of the store.

Commissioner Fisher stated that she would agree with the other Board members that there are other package stores within close proximity to the store.

Public Comment

Mrs. Gupta stated that they are looking to expand by just a little bit to make customers happy.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to denied the package store malt & wine license due to the area already being adequately served.

*List of Exhibits: Application for package store malt & wine license received and dated June 4, 2022.*

**13. Neon Beverage, LLC, 75 Quinsigamond Avenue**

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

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the application to the October 20, 2022 License Commission meeting.

**14. Patience Owusu, 892 Main Street**

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

Patience Owusu appeared upon behalf of the application. She stated that she is requesting a beer and wine license.

Chairman Shea stated that they have done a view in past and did another view this am and not much has changed at the premises.

Chairman Shea stated that during the view Ms. Owusu was asked how she check ID's and she stated she just physically look at them and the Commission members stated that ID scanner would be better. Especially considering that Clark University is close by.

Chairman Shea stated that in the material provided Ms. Owusu stated that she had a team but it just her and the Commission would suggest that maybe continuing the application so Ms. Owusu has time to put together a business plan and management plan and seek assistance on people who can assist her with providing more details on the operation of the business.

Ms. Owusu stated that she would like to continue to provide that material.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to continue the application to the October 20, 2022 License Commission meeting.

**THE BOARD TOOK FIFTEEN MINUTE RECESS**

Chairman Shea recused himself item #15

**15. Jeet Investment, Inc., 504 Cambridge Street**

- **Request to change of license type from package store malt & wine license to package store all alcohol and alteration of premises to add additional 350 Square feet.**

Attorney Jonathan Finkelstein and Rakesh Patel appeared upon behalf of the application

Mr. Finkelstein stated that Mr. Patel is seeking one of the five new licenses and stated that Mr. Patel has owned the business since 2008 and in 2018 received a & wine license. He stated that this is a family run business with four employees.

Commissioner Vigliotti stated that the Commissioners had viewed the site prior to the meeting and that the small cell phone portion of the store would be eliminated to add in for the full package store if they receive license.

Attorney Finkelstein reviewed some of the Ballarin factors;

Parking. Location is in a strip plaza with 104 parking spaces.

Public want. Mr. Finkelstein stated that there had been increase in population in Worcester and this store is an already existing establishment. They are just looking to add full liquor.

Appropriateness. Mr. Finkelstein stated that it not near school or park and part of a large plaza with access to highway so there no traffic issues.

Mr. Finkelstein stated that the closest liquor license ¼ mile away and this is a small neighborhood grocery store and stated that he had submitted a petition with signatures of people in support of store receiving the full license.

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

*List of Exhibits: Application for package store all alcohol license received and dated June 28, 2022.*

### **BOARD TOOK FIVE MINUTE RECESS**

#### *Public Comment*

Against – William Kirtsy, owner of Olympic Wine and Liquors stated that he opposed to all five liquor licenses as the industry is shrinking, cannabis is growing and taking away from the alcohol revenue in the state.

He stated that there is a demographic issue as certain area have more than licenses than others but this is an existing beer and wine going to full liquor so in this case it would make sense.

Support-Roy Samara stated that he owns the bakery next door and this would help increase customers to his store.

Walter Shea returned for item #16.

#### **16. Ha Nguyen dba Day Nite Store, 26 Greenwood Street**

- **Request to change of license type from package store malt & wine license to package store all alcohol**

Ha Nguyen appeared upon behalf of the application. She stated that she like full liquor. She stated that this is a family business that she has owned for over 20 years but when Walmart came to the area it impacted her store.

#### *Public Comment*

Support- Vin Nguyen, Ms. Ha Nguyen daughter, stated that since Walmart and CoVid the business revenue really went down and hope the full liquor license would give the business a breath of life.

Chairman Shea recused himself from item #17.

*List of Exhibits: Application for package store all alcohol license received and dated August 22, 2022.*

**17. Karm, Inc., dba Gateway Wine & Spirits, 37 Mechanic Street**

- **Request for package store all alcohol license**

Attorney Arthur Pearlman and Dhrrav Patel appeared upon behalf of the application.

Mr. Pearlman stated that addressing the Ballarin factors that the growth of Worcester has been great. From 2010 to 2020 almost 14 percent and majority in the downtown area and its continuing to grow and there are plans to building more residential units on Main Street and they are looking to go into that area as that where there is a need.

Mr. Pearlman stated that with regard to parking there is metered parking on both sides of the street and there is a parking garage and the access to the storage area in the parking lot and there is a security guard there who will make sure that access to that door is available.

Mr. Pearlman stated that with regard to noise there would be no noise and with regard to size the store is 1,800 square feet. It is not a huge store. It is not a destination store. It's a store people can walk to. The delivery door backups to building a portion that will be residential. There also a hotel and businesses in the area.

Mr. Pearlman stated that Mr. Patel has a good reputation and this store is for probably 1,000 residents and he stated that the only existing stores in the area are Clock Beer and Wine which has not opened, Maker to Main which is small and then Drew Convenience which is beer and wine only.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Felicio Lana, owner of Northeast Properties, stated that he owns all the property around this proposed location and he is complete against it as the means of egress has zero clearance of lot lines, the fire exit exits to his property which under code you cannot have. The security guard that Mr. Pearlman talked about works for him and is security for the Midtown Mall and the other complexes he owns in the area so not sure how he can be security for them. Also, the residential that Mr. Pearlman discussed that backups to the store is only going to have two floors of residential and they will mainly be students and young professional from MPHS. They also have no dumpster so not sure how they will dispose of trash. Also, there is problem with nips in the area and he would like this license to be denied due to those issues and area is well served by existing stores.

Anderson Winc, owner of Clock Beer and Wine, stated that this would be 50 feet from his front door so he would be against it.

Jessica Ortiz stated that she would be opposed due to downtown has lot of family and children and does not think this would be a good fit.

Ashley Berkley stated that she is a property manager for 44 Front and 250 Commercial. She stated that this will have negative impact. They have hired security team to clean up the area but this license would bring more substance use to the area and this would be negative step back.

Bill Kirsty stated that license already located in area so area is already well served and believes there is flaws in application whether they can put a store there.

Jim Marshall stated that he has a ministry in midtown mall and said he has lot of bad things have happened in the area but since Mr. Lana has been doing good job cleaning up the area but doesn't think this would be detriment as you have family kids coming in and out of the church.

*List of Exhibits: Application for package store all alcohol license received and dated July 25, 2022.*

### **18. NEC Convenience Store, Inc., 65 James Street**

- **Request for package store all alcohol license**

Renata Sleet appeared upon behalf of the application.

Ms. Sleet stated that she bought the store and thought it came with license and found out it didn't and she needs the license as her customers are looking for these products. She stated that she would buy machine to check ID. She stated that she currently sells cigarettes and lottery.

Chairman Shea stated that the Commissioners had viewed the site prior to the meeting and are aware that location had a beer and wine license in the past.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

*List of Exhibits: Application for package store all alcohol license received and dated July 26, 2022.*

### **19. LLAWM 1, LLC, dba Wine & Market, 166 Lincoln Street**

- **Request for package store all alcohol license**

Attorney Anthony Salvidio and Daniel Newcomb and Sarah Newcomb appeared upon behalf of the application.

Mr. Salvidio stated that his clients are looking to obtain one of the five new package store licenses due to the increase in population in Worcester. He stated that the residential growth in the areas has been going up and that there are two locations ½ mile away but this is a more of a walking destination and not a driving destination.

Mr. Newcomb stated that space is currently a dry cleaner and they would like to renovate and do a boutique more upscale beer/wine and spirit shop. There will be no signage in the windows and they have 66 letter of supports they have provided to the Commission and they have also talked to neighborhood group and the church.



Mr. Newcomb stated he has owned other liquor licenses with no violations and they are very mindful of neighbors.

Mr. Salvidio stated that this is one of most dense areas in Worcester and needs investment.

Chairman Shea asked about the non alcoholic products proposed in business plan. Mr. Newcomb stated that they intend to sell non alcoholic products such as fresh roasted coffee or seltzer and they are mindful that not everyone drinks and would like to provide that option also.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

*List of Exhibits: Application for package store all alcohol license received and dated July 27, 2022.*

### **20. My Liquors, Inc., 340 Shrewsbury Street**

- **Request for package store all alcohol license**

Attorney Mark Bornstein and Bkaratkumar Patel appeared upon behalf of the application.

Mr. Bornstein stated that the Commission had viewed the property this morning and saw that it could use some TLC and they proposed to put \$400,000 into the property to bring it up to code.

Mr. Bornstein went through the Ballarin factors;

Public want-The population of Worcester has increased 14% and this would store would serve the upper Shrewsbury Street area and the Lake Avenue area. There are more residents living in the area and will also serve the new commercial developments in the area.

Appropriateness of location-The area is commercial, it close to a neighborhood which will serve the neighbors, there are no schools, churches or hospital in close proximity to premises. There are a good network of sidewalks and route 9.

Mr. Bornstein stated that there are no existing licenses with ½ mile and none of the other applicants can say that. So the area is not well served. In addition there was two liquor licenses in the area and they were returned to the city so there were four in the area and he would asked that one be returned to the area.

Mr. Bornstein stated that there is ample parking and he doesn't anticipate noise and Mr. Patel has experience as owns other liquor establishments.

Commissioner Vigliotti stated that East Side Package Store is within ½ mile. Mr. Bornstein stated that is within .7 miles.

Commissioner Vigliotti stated that Albino's and D'Errico the two licenses that were returned to the city were beer and wine licenses. Mr. Bornstein stated that was correct but they were still package stores.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Rhoades, owner of the property, spoke in support of the application.

Bill Kirtsy stated that he wasn't speaking for or against but just wanted to say that the applicant has two other licenses and they have to consider if applicant is following existing laws and not transporting liquor between stores.

Mr. Bornstein stated that the applicant will be purchasing all products from a wholesaler and will not be transporting liquor between stores.

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*List of Exhibits: Application for package store all alcohol license received and dated August 22, 2022.*

Chairman Shea stated that these are special circumstances and they will close the public hearing on the package store requests and will meet at a special meeting next week to vote on the item.

### **Hearings**

#### **21. George's Café Inc of Worcester, 216B Chandler Street, Cessation of Business**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to rescind the liquor license due to cessation of business.

#### **22. Cajun Worcester LLC, dba Hook & Reel Cajun Seafood & Bar, 539 Lincoln Street, Cessation of Business**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to rescind the liquor license due to cessation of business.

#### **23. The Hangover Corporation, 138 Green Street, Cessation of Business**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to rescind the liquor license due to cessation of business.

### **Communications**

**ABCC communication – El Patron offer to comprise**

### **Adjournment**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 a.m.