



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

**Thursday, February 23, 2023**

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

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Alexandra Kalkounis, Law Department  
Sergeant Thomas Needham Worcester Police Department  
Officer Patrick Harrington, Worcester Police Department  
Captain Thomas Bull, Worcester Fire Department  
Lt. Kevin Vescera, Worcester Fire Department  
Inspector William Eckberg, Worcester Fire Department  
Deborah Steele, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services

**Call to Order** – 10:00 A.M.

**Minutes:** February 9, 2023

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of February 9 2023.

**Requests for Continuances, Extensions, Postponements, & Withdrawals**

**1. My Liquors, Inc., 340 Shrewsbury Street-Leave to Withdraw**

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

**One Day Liquor & Entertainment Requests**

**2. Worcester Center For Crafts, 25 Sagamore Road**

**Petition Purpose: Request for one day liquor license**

- **Saturday-March 4, 2023 – 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
- **Friday-April 21, 2023 – 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

- **Friday-July 21, 2023 – 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Applicant was having trouble logging into meeting, so staff reviewed application.

Staff stated that these events are similar to ones done in the past and they will have certified bartenders and security present.

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 February 14, 2023.*

### **3. Ecotarium, 222 Harrington Way**

#### **Petition Purpose: Request for one day liquor license**

- **Thursday-March 23, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday-May 20, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**
- **Friday-June 9, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday-June 16, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**
- **Friday-July 14, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**
- **Friday-August 25, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday-October 12, 2023 – 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
- **Friday-September 29, 2023 – 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Katilyn Williams, participating remotely, reviewed each of the events. She stated that there are gates at front entrance and they presell tickets so they know exactly how many people will be at each event and people attending will have ID's scanned. She stated that they have not had a police detail in the past but just use own security.

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 February 14, 2023*

### **4. Lupus Foundation of New England, Worcester Common**

#### **Petition Purpose: Request for one day liquor license**

#### **Request for one day entertainment license for radio. Live music (outside)**

- **Saturday, June 10, 2023 – 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

A representative from the food truck festival participated remotely for the item.

This event is similar to one done in past years and they will have police details and certified bartenders.

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

*List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor license received and dated January 20, 2023.*

**5. Sir Loin Catering, Park Avenue/Beer Garden next to Elm Park**

**Petition Purpose: Request for one day liquor license**

- **Sunday- March 12, 2023 – 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Kevin Gjianek stated that this will be his first year doing the event. He stated that there will be a full service food truck and beer wagon. He stated where the beer will be served is at end of road race and area will be fully stanchioned off. He stated that certified staff will be checking ID's and it is one drink limit.

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

*List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor license received and dated February 17, 2023.*

**6. Student Affairs Committee, 500 Salisbury Street**

**Petition Purpose: Request for one day liquor license**

- **Friday-March 10, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Midnight**
- **Saturday-March 11, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Midnight**
- **Friday-March 17, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Midnight**
- **Saturday-March 18, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Midnight**
- **Tuesday-March 21, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Midnight**
- **Friday-March 24, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Midnight**
- **Saturday-March 25, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Midnight**
- **Friday-March 31, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Midnight**
- **Saturday-April 1, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Midnight**
- **Friday-April 14, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Midnight**
- **Saturday-April 15, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Midnight**

Michael Rubino, participating remotely, reviewed the events. He stated that they will be using regular campus security and the management company Sodexo will manage the event by checking IDs as patrons enter and they will bracelet people over 21. He stated that there will also be two administrators present to monitor events.

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

*List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor license received and dated February 16, 2023.*

**7. Worcester Public Library Foundation, 5 Salem Square**

**Petition Purpose: Request for one day liquor license**

- **May 5, 2023 – 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

Christine Murray, participating remotely, stated that this is for their second annual mini golf event. There will be a certified bartender and you must be 21 years or older to attend and they will sell tickets prior to event so will know how many attending. They expect 100-150 people and will have security guard and custodian at 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 February 16, 2023.*

**8. Worcester Police Relief Association, 263 Lincoln Street**

- Request for one day liquor license
  - **Sunday- March 5, 2023 – Noon – 6:00 p.m.**

Tom Daly appeared on behalf of the application. He stated that this will a fundraiser and light snacks will be served.

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 February 16, 2023.*

**Common Victualer Requests**

**9. Big League Nutrition, 278 Millbury Street**

- **Monday-Sunday – 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Cassandra Kuhn, participating remotely, stated that she is taking over ownership of this 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 February 9, 2023.*

**10. Urban Spice World dba Edenish, 160 Green Street-Worcester Public Market**

- **Wednesday-Sunday – 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Pooja Vishal, participating remotely, stated that this will be located in the Worcester Public Market and they will be selling fresh salads.

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 February 8, 2023.*

**Liquor and Entertainment Application Requests**

**11. Thacura, Inc., 1082 Main Street**

**Petition Purpose: Request to amend entertainment license to add moving picture show, musical bingo and trivia night**

David Thacker appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that he looking to amend license and that there will be no live music at the venue.

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

*List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license received and dated February 3, 2023.*

**12. Shri Krishna Hari Corporation, 65 James Street**

**Petition Purpose: Request to transfer package all alcohol license from NEC Convenience Store, Inc.**

Ankit Gupta along with her attorney appeared upon behalf of the application. The current license is being transferred to the Shri Krishna Hari Corporation.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the transfer of the package store all alcohol license.

*List of Exhibits: Application for transfer of package store all alcohol license received and dated January 15, 2023.*

**13. Jusstevin, Inc., 266 Park Avenue**

**Petition Purpose: Request for alteration of premises**

Attorney Jonathan Finkelstein along with Stephen Hopkins appeared upon behalf of the application.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the alteration of premises.

*List of Exhibits: Application for alteration of premises received and dated January 24, 2023.*

**14. Next Level Hospitality, LLC, 48 Green Street**

**Petition Purpose**

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

Cameron Brigham appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that they will be a restaurant and will be selling specialty cocktails. He stated that there will be full kitchen and total seating will be for 81.

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

*List of Exhibits: Applications for common victualer and entertainment license received and dated January 24, 2023.*

**15. My Liquors, Inc., 340 Shrewsbury Street  
Petition Purpose: Request for package store all alcohol license**

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

**Lodging House License**

**16. 14 Oread Street – Status hearing**

Staff stated that they had received an update from Lee Hall at Inspectional Services that most of the housing code violations had been corrected and some other issues needed to be addressed but they were hoping to closing the case this week.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to file the item.

**Violation Hearing**

**17. Exchange Place, Inc., dba Michael’s Cigar Bar, 1 Exchange Place**  
o Violations of Rules #1, #14, #29-Hours, disturbance of the peace

Attorney Robert Hennigan and Mark Esperti, the manager of record, appeared upon behalf the violation.

Sgt. Needham presented the following:

On June 20, 2022, Officer James Ciru of the Worcester Police Department went to Michael’s Cigar Bar, to assist Worcester Fire and EMS who were trying to gain access to the roof by using an outdoor fire escape near the front of the premises as they had received a call that people were on the roof of Michael’s Cigar Bar overdosing. Once Fire reached the roof they did not find anyone and asked employees and patrons inside the premises if they knew where the victims were. They stated they had no idea and Officer Ciru asked dispatch to contact the person who reported the call to get a better location of the victims. As Officer Ciru as receiving call back from dispatch a female came through the doors between the Michael’s Cigar Bar and Citizen Kitchen and directed Police, Fire and EMS through the courtyard area to the rear entrance across the courtyard from Michael’s Cigar Bar and then to the roof top.

Upon ascending to the roof first responders found several people on the roof. Three males unconscious and unresponsive. Two of these males had agonal breathing and the third male had no pulse. Two females and two males were removed and escorted from the roof to the front of Michael’s Cigar Bar by first responders. All were actively overdosing and subsequently transported via ambulance to the

hospital. The remaining males needed to be removed off the roof top via buck of the Worcester Fire Department Ladder 3. The victims had to be assisted by several officers from the bucket and into the ambulance. One of the two males who were removed by the bucket truck had no pulse and was not breathing. One individual was subsequently pronounced deceased at the hospital.

Officer Ciru was able to ascertain that 2 of the victims that were overdosing on the roof were employees of Michael's Cigar Bar. Employees interviewed by Officer Ciru stated that they go up to the roof of the premises after closing sometimes to hang out and have drinks.

On June 21, 2022 Detective Joseph Essex and Police Officer Glenn Stout from the Worcester Police Department went to the premises and retrieved video of June 20, 2022 between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 2:30 a.m., the night the incident occurred.

Also, observed on video was a former employee entering Michael's Cigar Bar and remaining on the premises well after the 2:00 a.m. closing time.

On June 30, 2022 Sergeant Thomas Needham and Officer Stout conducted a walkthrough of Michael's Cigar Bar to get a better understanding of the layout of the property. An employee of the premises, Christen Roy, advised them that they could access the stairwell to the rooftop in the building across the courtyard from Michael's Cigar Bar by going through the basement.

Attorney Robert Hennigan appeared along with Mark Esperti the manager of the record to respond to the violation.

Attorney Hennigan stated that with regard to Rule #29 which is the violation occurring on the premises that there was actually no injured persons on the premises of Michael's Cigar Bar. Sergeant Needham stated not on the premises but the people involved used the premises basement, the hallway and under the courtyard to access to property adjacent to them.

Sergeant Needham testified that an employee of Michael's Cigar Bar was made aware of the people on the adjacent roof and did not alert the first responders about people being on the roof when asked by first responders on how to access the roof of the premises and Worcester Police believed that staff could have taken greater action to provide access to the adjacent property so the first responders could check the location.

Mr. Esperti stated that he investigated himself what happened that evening and he believed that the bartender who told the first responders how to access the premises was unaware about the emergency on the adjacent roof and when another employee asked the bartender how to access the adjacent roof she didn't explain to him why she needed to go up there.

Mr. Esperti testified that the seven (7) people up on the roof all snuck up to the roof of the other premises after they had left Michael's Cigar Bar.

Attorney Hennigan asked if person observed in premises after hours was served any alcohol after hours. Attorney Kalkounis stated that the rule states that no patrons can be on the premises after hours whether has alcohol or not.

Mr. Pimental stated that when the first responders arrived he was not aware of the seriousness of what was happening on the adjacent roof.

*List of Exhibits:*

- A. Police report dated July 1, 2022*
- B. Flash Drive from Worcester Police Department*

## **Other Business**

### **18. Consideration of Local Fee Waivers for Temporary Conversions in 2023**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve fee waiver for the filing/advertising fees for license holders who were approved during the Covid 19 emergency for temporary dining who wish to apply for permanent outdoor dining.

### **19. Outdoor Dining Application Form**

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

## **Communications**

**ABCC Notice of Suspension-Shri Mahadev Corporation dba One Stop Beer & Wine, 147 Highland Street-filed**

**ABCC Notice of Suspension – Cowboy Property Management LLC dba Husky’s Pub, 413 Park Avenue-filed**

## **Adjournment**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m.