

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW THE DISTRIBUTION OF BOSTON'S 225 NEW LIQUOR LICENSES AND PROVIDE ONGOING SUPPORT TO RESTAURATEURS

WHEREAS, Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a bill that created 225 new liquor licenses in Boston, after the passage of a home-rule petition by the Boston City Council in 2023; *and*

WHEREAS, The 225 liquor licenses—consisting of Neighborhood Non-Transferable Licenses, Community Space Licenses, and Citywide Transferable Licenses—represent a nearly unprecedented opportunity to drive economic development, particularly in the 13 designated ZIP Codes such as Mattapan, Dorchester, and Roxbury, which have historically lacked access to sit-down restaurants; *and*

WHEREAS, As of Nov. 11, 2025, 61 new licenses in 12 ZIP Codes, Oak Square, and cultural districts had been distributed, including 7 cultural licenses, with only 02132 lacking any new liquor licensees; *and*

WHEREAS, It is critical to provide regular updates on the progress of license distribution, including transparency on the awarded applicants, data tracking their impact on local communities, and plans for future rounds of applications; *and*

WHEREAS, The City must continue to ensure equity in the application process through expanded informational sessions, business support resources, and licensing guidance tailored for entrepreneurs in underrepresented neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS, These support systems, including multilingual resources, application tutorials, and outreach efforts, should be offered consistently both in-person, online, and at accessible times to maximize participation from diverse restaurateurs; *and*

WHEREAS, The City should sustain ongoing marketing and outreach efforts to inform existing and aspiring small business owners about these opportunities and help them navigate the licensing process; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold an annual hearing to review the status and impact of the 225 new liquor licenses, ensure transparency in the distribution process, and explore continued support mechanisms such as informational sessions, business guidance, and community

outreach to maximize equitable access and economic growth in Boston's neighborhoods.

Filed on: January 26, 2026