

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, JULIA MEJIA, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE,
COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, PEPÉN, SANTANA AND WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

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, following 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, The initial deadline for the first round of liquor license applications closed on December 6, 2024, and the City's Licensing Board has begun reviewing submissions based on public need, economic development, and cultural vibrancy criteria with the hopes of awarding the first batch of licenses by March 31, 2025; *and*

WHEREAS, It is critical to provide regular updates on the progress of license distribution, including transparency on the awarded applicants, 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 by expanding 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 3, 2025