Licensing Board | Nightlife Economy

ADVISORY: THE CITY OF BOSTON OFFICE OF NIGHTLIFE ECONOMY AND LICENSING BOARD TO DISTRIBUTE BEVERAGE COVERS AND HOST DRINK SPIKING PREVENTION TRAININGS FOR NIGHTCLUBS

Issued: October 24, 2024

The primary goal of the Licensing Board for the City of Boston (the "Board") is to ensure the safety, security, health, and welfare of patrons at all of our licensed premises. The Board regulates more than 3,000 licensed premises in the City of Boston, approximately 1,400 of which hold licenses to sell alcoholic beverages. The Office of Nightlife Economy ("O.N.E.") was created to establish policies, programs, and initiatives to tackle long-standing challenges faced by the Board's Licensees and their patrons.

Locally, nationally, and internationally, there have been an increased number of reports of illicit, non-consensual drugging occurring at bars, nightclubs, and other nightlife venues. Specifically, in recent years there has been an increase in persons reporting alleged cases of drinks being spiked or "roofied."

The Board continues to take these reports and allegations seriously, issuing an advisory relative to spiked drinks on November 22, 2021 and an updated advisory on March 17, 2023 to remind Licensees of obligations and best practices related to patron safety. The Board, in partnership with O.N.E., is issuing this advisory (the "Advisory") once more and encourages Licensees to review the obligations and best practices related to patron safety outlined in the updated Advisory.

Additionally, the Board, in partnership with O.N.E., is announcing new resources available to Licensees to further ensure the safety, security, health, and welfare of patrons and the reduction of reported cases of drink spiking.

Drink Covers

1. Starting Monday, November 4, 2024, City of Boston sponsored drink covers ("Covers") are available to Licensees by voluntary request.
2. Licensees may request up to 1,000 Covers per licensed premise.
3. Licensees may submit their request for the Covers HERE.
4. The Covers will be distributed at pick-up locations on the date indicated on the request form.
5. Licensees who utilize this resource must advertise conspicuously across their establishment the availability of Covers and should offer the use of the Covers upon request of a patron until supplies last.

6. These Covers, manufactured by StopTopps, are single-use, 100mm aluminum foils with food and hygiene approved glue to securely stick on the top of most drinking vessels.
7. Licensees are encouraged to acquire additional Covers independently in order to further the safety of their patrons.

Environmental Safety Training

1. In-person environmental safety training will be made available to Licensees and their staff. Training topics are as follows:
    a. Drink Spiking Prevention
    b. Stop the Bleed
    c. Naloxone Administration
    d. De-escalation
    e. CPR
    f. Identifying Fake IDs
2. Licensees may submit their interests in participating in one or more of these trainings HERE.
3. Trainings will be administered in partnership with trusted leaders, to include the Licensed Premise Unit of the Boston Police Department, the Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation, and others.

Licensees who are interested in receiving Covers and/or participating in environmental safety training(s) should complete the online form by **November 1**.

Any questions should be directed to Corean Reynolds, the Director of Nightlife Economy, who can be reached at (617) 635-5702 or nightlife@boston.gov.