



Haverhill

License Commission, Room 118
Phone: 978-420-3630 Fax: 978-373-8490
nflynn@haverhillma.gov

LICENSE COMMISSION MINUTES **THURSDAY APRIL 3, 2025, at 6 PM-Room 202** **Virtual and In-Person Meeting**

Attending: Chairperson Laura Angus, Commissioner Linda Koutoulas, Commissioner Patrick Driscoll, Sgt. Kevin Lynch – Haverhill Police Department, City Clerk Kaitlin M. Wright, and License Commission Clerk Nicholas K. Flynn

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2.1 Approval of the minutes of the March 6, 2025 meeting

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2025 meeting.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

2.2 Approval of the minutes of the March 14, 2025 meeting

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2025 meeting.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

3. CONTINUED BUSINESS

4. MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATIONS/REQUESTS

5. ONE DAY APPLICATIONS

5.1 Kim Dandurant, Applicant

Holy Archangels Armenian Church St. Michael and St. Gabriel

1280 Boston Road

-Application for One Day Liquor License – All Alcohol – Wedding on April 12, 2025, for the hours of 5PM to 12AM

-Has Police Department approval

Kim Dandurant, applicant, was present for this application. She explained it was a family wedding with an expected 125-150 people, with food simply provided by the family. Chairperson Angus verified if Mark Kazanjian, the proposed TIPS certified server, would be the one serving alcohol and Ms. Dandurant confirmed so.



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Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the license for April 12, 2025, for the hours of 5PM to 12AM.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

5.2 Cynthia Graham, Applicant

Haverhill Firefighting Museum

75 Kenoza Ave

-Application for One Day Liquor License – All Alcohol – Fundraiser on May 3, 2025, for the hours of 5PM to 10PM

-Has Police Department approval

Cynthia Graham, applicant, was present. Chairperson Angus asked if this fundraiser was the previously done Kentucky Derby event, but the applicant explained this new event was replacing it. She further added this event's theme was Tequila & Tacos. Commissioner Koutoulas confirmed that proposed TIPS certified server Patricia A. Graham would be the one serving alcohol.

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to approve the license for May 3, 2025, for the hours of 5PM to 10PM.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

5.3 James Carbone, Applicant

44 Merrimack Street

-Application for One Day Liquor License – Beer & Wine – CiderFeast (Hard Cider & Food Tasting) on June 19, 2025, for the hours of 5PM to 8:30PM.

-Has Police and Recreation approval

-Pending Event Permit

-Pending TIPS Certifications for each additional server

James Carbone, applicant and producer of the event, was present. He shared that this would be the event's fifth year at Harbor Place and that they work closely with the Greater Haverhill Foundation. Mr. Carbone listed Cogswell ArtSpace, L'Arche Boston North, and WHAV as donation beneficiaries of this event. Chairperson Angus verified if the alcohol area was roped in – the applicant explained one side of the area was the wall fencing on the river, two sides of it are the boardwalk with



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a monitored gate that is only opened for anyone in a wheelchair, the main area was by the fountain facing Merrimack Street, and that the area by Barrio serves as a divider. Mr. Carbone said there would be people monitoring all three points and that they have never had an issue in the past four instances of the event. Chairperson Angus asked if attendees would be given wristbands to purchase alcohol and if children would be attending – the applicant explained that the event was 21+ only and that attendees would wear wristbands. Commissioner Koutoulas verified that the applicant would provide TIPS certifications once he had verified who his servers would be, and he confirmed he had agreed to submit them one week before the event. Chairperson Angus reminded the applicant the license would not be issued until this information was received.

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the license for June 19, 2025, for the hours of 5PM to 8:30PM, pending Event Permit and TIPS Certifications for each additional server at the event.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

5.4 James Carbone, Applicant

542 North Broadway

-Application for One Day Liquor License – Beer & Wine – Tattersall Farms to Taste (Food & Drink Tasting) on June 26, 2025, for the hours of 5PM to 8:30PM.

-Has Police and Recreation approval

-Pending Event Permit

-Pending TIPS Certifications for each additional server

James Carbone, applicant, was present. He shared this would be the fourth year doing this event for Tattersall Farms, but this year would involve three dates instead of one. The applicant said a feature of the event was purchasing and cooking food from Late Bloom Farm, an organic vegetable farm. This will be the second time Late Bloom Farm participates and the food will be cooked at La Pizza DiForno. Mr. Carbone added that this event was 21+, that the area would be staked and roped off, there would only be one attendee entry (and one staff entry), and that all positions would be staffed.



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Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to approve the license for June 26, 2025, for the hours of 5PM to 8:30PM, pending Event Permit and TIPS Certifications for each additional server.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

5.5 James Carbone, Applicant

542 North Broadway

-Application for One Day Liquor License – Beer & Wine – Tattersall Farms to Taste (Food & Drink Tasting) on July 24, 2025, for the hours of 5PM to 8:30PM.

-Has Police and Recreation approval

-Pending Event Permit

-Pending TIPS Certifications for each additional server

[Same event as 5.4, different date. No further comments, previous details/conditions apply]

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the license for July 24, 2025, for the hours of 5PM to 8:30PM, pending Event Permit and TIPS Certifications for each additional server.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

5.6 James Carbone, Applicant

542 North Broadway

-Application for One Day Liquor License – Beer & Wine – Tattersall Farms to Taste (Food & Drink Tasting) on August 14, 2025, for the hours of 5PM to 8:30PM.

-Has Police and Recreation approval

-Pending Event Permit

-Pending TIPS Certifications for each additional server

[Same event as 5.4, different date. Previous details/conditions apply]

Chairperson Angus asked if the applicant needed rain dates for any of their events, to which the applicant said no.



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Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to approve the license for August 14, 2025, for the hours of 5PM to 8:30PM, pending Event Permit and TIPS Certifications for each additional server.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

6. BUSINESS CERTIFICATES

7. ENTERTAINMENT APPLICATIONS

7.1 John Vargas, Manager

The Ella and John V, LLC

d/b/a The Lasting Room

122 Washington Street

-Application for New Entertainment license for Monday through Thursday for the hours of 8 AM to 1 AM, Friday for the hours of 8 AM to 2 AM, Saturday for the hours of 8 AM to 1 AM, and Sunday for the hours of 10 AM to 1 AM for Amplifiers, Dancing (by Patrons only), D.J, Karaoke, Music – Amplified (Indoors Only), Radio, Television, Performance (includes live bands) with Instruments (4), Vocalist (1)

- Has Police Department and Zoning Department approval

-Police require Restriction of No Outdoor Amplified Music

-Continued from November 20, 2024 meeting

John Vargas, applicant, was present for this application. Chairperson Angus informed the applicant that Entertainment activities are to end one half-hour before close and that any band members performing would count against their occupancy. Commissioner Koutoulas recommended that the manager be mindful of the amplified music's volume even if it is indoors only. Chairperson Angus asked if the applicant was ready to open, to which he replied the process is moving along.



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Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the new Entertainment license for Monday through Thursday for the hours of 8 AM to 12:30 AM, Friday for the hours of 8 AM to 1:30 AM, Saturday for the hours of 8 AM to 12:30 AM, and Sunday for the hours of 10 AM to 12:30 AM for Amplifiers, Dancing (by Patrons only), D.J, Karaoke, Music – Amplified (Indoors Only), Radio, Television, Performance (includes live bands) with Instruments (4), Vocalist (1) - with Police restriction of No Outdoor Amplified Music.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

7.2 Barbara Gliklich, Manager

Wicked Axe LLC

d/b/a Wicked Axe

721 South Main Street

-Application for Amendment to Entertainment license to add Cornhole and Drag Show to existing license

-Pending Police approval

Barbara Gliklich, applicant, and Sean Gliklich were present. Amanda Mann, Director of Operations, was virtually present. Chairperson Angus clarified if Wicked Axe already hosted Cornhole: the manager confirmed and stated that since she noticed it wasn't on her Entertainment license she felt it best to add it in addition to Drag Show. The Chairperson inquired if Inspectional Services have looked at the setup for the Cornhole to verify if the Occupancy Number needed to be changed, and the applicant replied she had not. Regarding the addition of Drag Show, Chairperson Angus expressed her concern that if floor space was being taken up for the performance, then the Occupancy may need to be changed for that as well. Sean Gliklich responded that the stage would occupy 160 sq.ft out of 10,000, but the Chairperson stated she wished for the Building Inspector to be aware of any possible adjustments required for the Occupancy and noted he had not yet given approval for this amendment. She further reminded the applicant that performers in a Drag Show would count against the Occupancy Number.

Chairperson Angus then inquired if performers would remain fully clothed, which Amanda Mann confirmed. Commissioner Driscoll asked if the intended Drag Show on Friday, April 25th would be 21+ - Ms. Mann replied it would be 18+, that the Drag Show would be from 8PM to 11PM, and that they would require anyone under the age of 21 to leave once the event ends. Chairperson Angus asked how they



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would ensure that anyone under 21 would not be able to acquire alcohol. Ms. Mann said anyone under 21 would have an X on their hand from a permanent marker and that anyone over 21 would have a wristband. The Chairperson replied that the wristbands were acceptable but that the marker was not an effective solution as it could be easily removed, and Ms. Mann answered they would look into other options. Commissioner Driscoll added that bartenders/servers could verify ages of anyone attempting to purchase alcohol. Barbara Gliklich said that she and Sean Gliklich would be present that evening and monitoring the premises throughout.

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to approve the Amendment to the Entertainment license to add Cornhole and Drag Show to the existing license, pending Police *and Inspectional Services* approval.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

8. COMMON VICTUALLER APPLICATIONS

8.1 Salwa Nasreddine, Manager

Hug In A Mug Cafe, LLC

d/b/a Hug In A Mug

22 Washington Street

-Application for new Common Victualler license for Monday through Friday for the hours of 6AM to 5PM, Saturday for the hours of 8AM to 7PM, and Sunday for the hours of 8AM to 3PM

-Pending Business Occupancy

Salwa Nasreddine, applicant, was present for this application. She introduced herself as owner, manager, baker, and chef for Hug In A Mug Cafe and said she's been a longtime resident of Haverhill. The cafe would offer homemade products from American and Moroccan origins. Commissioner Koutoulas asked if there would be no TV or radio, and the manager said she intended to apply for an Entertainment license. Chairperson Angus asked if she was close to opening, to which she responded she would have a soft opening in May and a grand opening in June. The applicant also added she began the application last year but postponed due to an illness in the family, and has past experience in helping businesses open.



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Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the new Common Victualler license for Monday through Friday for the hours of 6AM to 5PM, Saturday for the hours of 8AM to 7PM, and Sunday for the hours of 8AM to 3PM, pending Business Occupancy.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

9. OUTDOOR DINING APPLICATIONS

10. ALCOHOL/ABCC APPLICATIONS

10.1 Julie Maloof, Manager

Desire' Thurber, Proposed Manager

American Veterans of Haverhill Massachusetts, Inc.

d/b/a AMVETS

576 Primrose Street

-Application for multiple amendments: change of manager and change of officers/directors/LLC Managers

-Pending DOR form

Desire' Thurber, Proposed Manager, was present for this application. Chairperson Angus asked License Commission Clerk Nicholas Flynn if he had informed the applicant of the missing/incorrect documents in the submitted application. The Clerk explained he sent an email in the late afternoon, and Ms. Thurber said she would update the application as soon as she knew the full details. Chairperson Angus clarified a Vote of the Club was missing as part of the application, as well as a few other necessary fixes. The Chairperson asked if a motion could be made to accept pending the DOR form and all required changes to complete the full application.

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to approve the application for multiple amendments: change of manager and change of officers/directors/LLC Managers, pending DOR form and reception of corrected/outstanding forms.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

11. MOTOR VEHICLE APPLICATIONS

12. CARRY IN LICENSE APPLICATIONS



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13. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

13.1 Julie Maloof, Manager

Desire' Thurber, Proposed Manager

American Veterans of Haverhill Massachusetts, Inc.

d/b/a AMVETS

576 Primrose Street

-Item for Discussion: Presentation of Safety Plan for function area events

-Pending Police approval

Desire' Thurber, Proposed Manager, was present. Chairperson Angus asked Sergeant Kevin Lynch if the Police Department had received the Safety Plan, and the Sergeant replied it had his approval. Chairperson Angus asked if the back door that would be locked at all times is a push bar: the proposed manager confirmed and added it would allow for exiting but not entry. The Chairperson also asked Sgt. Lynch if he believed one bartender and one doorperson would be sufficient to oversee under 50 people and the Sergeant said yes.

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to approve the Safety Plan for function area events.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

13.2 Bassam Geha, Manager

Michael's Function Hall, Inc.

d/b/a Michael's Function Hall & The Phoenician Restaurant

12 Alpha Street

-Item for Discussion: Alleged disturbance on or about March 21, 2025

Sergeant Kevin Lynch presented the facts. On March 21st, 2025, at approximately 11PM, officers were dispatched to the business for a reported disturbance during a band performance by an employee named Michael Murphy. The officers met with the employee and parties involved outside, one male and one female. The calling party stated they had two drinks each before they became unruly. They chose to not press charges as the only damage was broken glasses. The parties were reported to have a strong odor of alcohol emanating, slur their words, be unsteady on their feet, and have argued with other parties on scene. The officers asked the male to sit due to swaying, found the two parties were from out of state without anyone else present



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to take care of them, and thus placed them into protective custody.

Bassam Geha, manager, was present for this discussion. Chairperson Angus asked if the manager's bartenders had noticed that the two parties were previously intoxicated before being served. The manager explained he was not initially present at the scene of the incident as he was attending to the restaurant part of the business, whereas the incident occurred in the function hall, but immediately noticed upon arrival that the two parties were incapable of moving and asked how many drinks they had been served. Mr. Geha claimed that the cause of their state was likely due to drugs taken prior, and that an officer on scene seemed to agree. He said that the male party initially appeared to be compliant when offered an Uber ride home, but then suddenly became argumentative and started swearing and using slurs. This was when he asked his manager, Michael Murphy, to call the police. Commissioner Koutoulas asked how long the two parties had been present at the bar. Michael Murphy, who was in attendance, said he believed they were present from 9PM to 10:45PM. The Commissioner then echoed Chairperson Angus' prior question as to whether the bartenders noticed any unsober behavior before serving or not. Mr. Geha said he couldn't answer the question as he was not present at the time of serving, but the bartender on duty, the manager's brother-in-law, told him they "were fine" initially before their behavior deteriorated. Commissioner Koutoulas noted that the police report did mention a strong odor of alcohol, even if drugs may have been involved. The manager said the bartenders did not notice anything when they served the two parties and that camera footage could be reviewed. He added that each party individually came once to acquire alcohol at the bar. Commissioner Koutoulas asked who served them and Mr. Geha answered it was his brother-in-law and that he was TIPS certified.

Chairperson Angus asked Sgt. Lynch if it were possible that the alcohol odor was coming from spilled drinks. The Sergeant replied that "anything was possible," and that typically people consuming a substance would be affected overtime unless it was directly ingested. He added that the mix with a substance and alcohol could cause an additive or antagonistic effect, and that bar staff should remain vigilant to any potential signs of impairment before serving. The Chairperson then asked the manager if anyone else was on duty aside from the bartender: the manager clarified that he himself was in the restaurant section of the business while acting manager Michael Murphy was present in the Function Hall. The Chairperson further asked how many people were in attendance, to which the manager replied "less than 100". Commissioner Koutoulas asked if Mr. Murphy and the brother-in-law were the only employees present at the time of the incident and Mr. Geha said they were, plus one



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bartender, but that there were two people supervising that night's show. The Chairperson asked if these latter two were his employees, and the manager explained they were outside staff working for an entertainment company. Commissioner Koutoulas asked if Mr. Geha had any security or bouncers working, and he replied the two entertainment people were usually at the door checking tickets. The Commissioner then expressed her concern that three employees didn't seem sufficient to monitor 100 people. The manager said most people usually sit at tables and not at the bar and felt he didn't need to hire a bouncer as "normally [they] don't have any issues" but always called the Police Department if there were – Commissioner Koutoulas responded that it was preferable to curtail such issues before needing to involve the police. Chairperson Angus agreed that while it was a good decision to call the police, such events like the concert in question should have more staff present to monitor attendees as bartenders are too busy serving drinks. Sergeant Kevin Lynch inquired if patrons are allowed to exit the building and reenter. The manager said they "try not to" let that occur, and the Sergeant explained this should be taken into consideration in case patrons are taking substances outdoors before reentering. Commissioner Koutoulas added that she would like to see "No Reentry" adopted in the business' policy. Mr. Geha said usually only smokers are those who might exit and reenter – the Commissioner suggested adding a roped off area for smokers and Chairperson Angus suggested adding a security detail outside to monitor those that briefly exit to smoke.

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to place the matter on file.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

13.3 Bassam Geha, Manager

Michael's Function Hall, Inc.

d/b/a Michael's Function Hall & The Phoenician Restaurant

12 Alpha Street

**-Item for Discussion: Alleged potential violation of Entertainment License –
Shades of Men Live event scheduled for June 6, 2025**

Bassam Geha, manager, was present. He confirmed the event had already been cancelled. Commissioner Koutoulas suggested he contact the License Commission in the future to inquire about eligibility for certain events. The manager said he understood and that the event was not advertised on the business' website, but



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Chairperson Angus stated that did not matter. Mr. Geha further explained that the organizers of the event suggested advertising the event on their website first to see if it would gain traction and offer business to Michael's Function Hall & The Phoenician Restaurant but that he would not have hosted an event with nude dancing. Chairperson Angus stated that the Commission did not wish to allow for such events to be hosted in Haverhill.

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to place the matter on file.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

13.4 Brian J House, Manager

Brian J House

d/b/a Family Auto Sales

21 White Street

-Item for Discussion: Failure to return Motor Vehicle II License

Brian J House was not present at this discussion. Chairperson Angus stated she understood Mr. House had already returned his license earlier that week.

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to place the matter on file.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

14. SHOW CAUSE HEARING

14.1 Michael DiFeo III, Manager

Mr. Mike's Restaurant & Lounge, Inc.

d/b/a Mr. Mike's Restaurant & Lounge

1149 Main Street

-Show cause hearing: Alleged violation of 204 CMR 2.05 (2) Permitting an illegality on the licensed premises to wit

-Incident that occurred on or about March 4, 2025, at 16:51

Sergeant Kevin Lynch presented the facts. On March 4th, 2025, at approximately 4:51PM, Officer Powell was dispatched to Mr. Mike's Restaurant & Lounge after being called by the manager on duty, Kelsie Peabody, for a reported highly intoxicated male attempting to drive away. The officer stopped the car and noticed a strong odor of alcohol emanating from the driver. His eyes were "bloodshot and



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glassy” and he was slurring his speech. The male told the officer he was coming from AMVETS where he had two vodka sodas. The officer advised him that he was coming from Mr. Mike’s and brought him to the hospital due to his level of intoxication. A criminal complaint was filed in court. Kelsie Peabody informed the officer that the male was a regular client on Tuesday evenings and that he was served a single beer that was “quickly taken away from him” due to his unusual behavior. He refused her advice to get an Uber ride home and drove away before he was stopped by the police.

Michael DiFeo III, manager, was virtually present and sworn in. Chairperson Angus acknowledged that the bartender noticed the male’s level of intoxication and took the beer away but expressed her concern that he was served in the first place. The manager said that the male has had a limp, which was why nothing unusual was initially noticed by staff. He added that, after ordering a meal and the beer, staff noticed he “wasn’t himself” when he went to pay, took away the beer, and attempted to persuade him to not drive himself home. The manager stated camera footage was delivered to the police department and that they could not legally force the male to stay put. Commissioner Koutoulas asked if the establishment had ever had a problem in the past with this patron, to which the manager said they did not. The Commissioner then asked if the patron received the beer after he ate his meal: the manager (who wasn’t present the night of the incident) said he believed both were ordered together but that he was “under the impression” he only had one sip of the beer. Sergeant Lynch, based on camera footage, offered that the male entered the restaurant at 4:25PM, was served a draft at the bar, ordered food afterwards at 4:27PM which partially came out at 4:31PM, the beer was removed at 4:47PM, and the male exited the restaurant at 4:49PM. Commissioner Koutoulas noted the importance of having cameras.

Kelsie Peabody, the manager working the night of the incident, was physically present and sworn in. She answered Chairperson Angus that she was not the one to serve the male but was the one to try and persuade him to not drive off. She added that the server spoke to her to explain the situation, and that it was her understanding that the male had had “two sips total” of the beer. Commissioner Koutoulas stated she believed the incident was handled properly and Commissioner Driscoll agreed.

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to place the matter on file.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.



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14.2 Julie Maloof, Manager

Desire' Thurber, Proposed Manager

American Veterans of Haverhill Massachusetts, Inc.

d/b/a AMVETS

576 Primrose Street

**-Show cause hearing: Alleged violation of 204 CMR 2.05 (2) Permitting an
illegality on the licensed premises to wit**

-Incident that occurred on or about March 4, 2025, at 16:51

[Same incident as 14.1]

Sergeant Kevin Lynch added additional facts pertaining to AMVETS. Having reviewed their camera footage, the Sergeant described that the male entered the building at 12:52PM, was served his first drink at 12:53PM, his second drink at 1:21PM, his third drink at 1:57PM, his fourth drink at 2:36PM, his fifth drink at 2:54PM, his sixth drink at 3:30PM, his seventh drink at 3:49PM, his eighth drink at 4:00PM, his ninth drink at 4:07PM, and exited the building at 4:12PM before being on video driving down Primrose Street at 4:17PM. He had 9 drinks in 3.6 hours.

Scott Gleason, attorney representing AMVETS, was present. He recalled that he and AMVETS were informed more “stringent activity and discipline” were required by the License Commission on the March 6th, 2025 meeting (*Item 14.2*), and promised alongside (proposed) President Paul Riopelle that they would “get that done” but noted this incident in question had already occurred two days prior. Attorney Gleason said that footage of the incident was reviewed and turned over to Sgt. Lynch, that the server who served the male had their employment immediately terminated on March 7th for “grossly” overserving the patron, and that the club decided to enact a contract system with its bartenders where they acknowledge that they will be immediately terminated for any instance of overpouring and overserving. The attorney expressed his hope that the Commission would take the club’s efforts into consideration and his wish for its input.

Chairperson Angus inquired how this new contract was being reviewed and how footage was being reviewed. Desire' Thurber, proposed manager, was then sworn in. She explained that the club’s board was doing random checks of footage or watching bartenders if present, done on a regular but not full-time basis as members of the board were not always available. Ms. Thurber added that she has spoken to every one of her bartenders to inform them they need to be vigilant and unafraid of no longer serving patrons if they sense an issue. She also added that their upcoming



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TIPS recertification course would take place on May 4th and that employment would be terminated if it was not attended. Commissioner Koutoulas commended the newly selected manager on her efforts but she and Chairperson Angus insisted vigilance be maintained consistently overtime. Ms. Thurber agreed and replied that she and the president had decided to require all TIPS certifications be awarded from in-person courses, not online, and that the club would reimburse any new bartenders if they needed to get recertified as a result. She added that the club has already begun ensuring that their bar be vacated by patrons by 12AM and are doing everything they must to remain in operation. Commissioner Koutoulas remarked that the nine drinks served was far too excessive – Ms. Thurber agreed and said it was a unanimous decision to terminate the employment of the bartender responsible. The Commissioner asked if this was the only bartender who had engaged in overserving, to which Ms. Thurber answered “not that [they had] seen” and that some of her bartenders have already started to cut off patrons recently for poor behavior. Ms. Thurber also said that unlike the other bartenders, this bartender had only had 6 months of experience and was TIPS certified through an online course, furthering supporting the requirement of in-person courses.

Sgt. Lynch added that the now terminated bartender was also found twice on camera to mix a “can of something” with the contents of a bottle in a glass. Sgt. Lynch could not discern if it was alcohol or not but remarked the bartender had consumed its contents herself. Ms. Thurber said she believed it was grenadine with ginger ale, to which the Sergeant said it was possible but worth review. He also reminded Ms. Thurber to be mindful that the club’s occupancy number was never exceeded during functions – Ms. Thurber said they use a clicker. Commissioner Koutoulas added that attendees needed to follow club rules, in particular members signing in their guests. Ms. Thurber responded that an employee monitors the entrance during event nights to ensure membership and sign-ins. Commissioner Koutoulas asked if club members were assisting in monitoring bartenders, and Ms. Thurber replied she and regular club members did so every day. Chairperson Angus asked how many bartenders were used – Ms. Thurber answered they used one for weekday dayshifts and two for nightshifts and weekends, plus two bouncers. Commissioner Koutoulas asked how many attendees they had on weekend evenings, and Ms. Thurber said typically maybe 60-70 people, that a recent fundraiser almost had them at full occupancy but that clickers were used to ensure they never exceeded their allotted amount. Chairperson Angus said she believed having two bartenders was a good idea. Ms. Thurber said two bartenders were used on Fridays and Saturdays but that one would potentially be dismissed if they had under 30 patrons present.



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Commissioner Koutoulas asked if they still used a bouncer, and Ms. Thurber confirmed they used two on Friday and Saturday nights and event nights, but not during the day. Chairperson Angus advised that her bartenders communicate with their patrons to verify if it was safe to serve them, and Ms. Thurber responded that most of them did. Commissioner Koutoulas asked if the overserved male was a regular, and Ms. Thurber said he was one of the club's maintenance workers but was now banned from drinking alcohol in the club.

Attorney Scott Gleason wished to add that the club's new cameras, previously requested by the Commission, were all installed. Ms. Thurber added she submitted photos to City Clerk Kaitlin Wright, and that they were planning on upgrading cameras in their basement. Commissioner Koutoulas asked when they thought this would be completed – AMVETS (proposed) President Paul Riopelle identified himself and answered it would be done within the next 20 days, and that cameras would also be able to be accessed by cellphone. The Commissioner reminded the club that cameras were for the club's protection, as well. Mr. Riopelle agreed and assured he would uphold a zero-tolerance policy for new offenses.

Motion: Commissioner Koutoulas motions to place the matter on file without action.

Second: Commissioner Driscoll seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.



Haverhill

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14.3 Evangellos Asprogiannis, Manager

La Pizza DiForno Inc
d/b/a La Pizza DiForno
109 Merrimack Street

-Show Cause Hearing:

- Alleged violation of 204 CMR 2.05 (2) Permitting an illegality on the licensed premises to wit**
- Alleged violation of MGL 138 § 34 Sale of Alcohol to Persons under 21**
- Alleged Violation of MGL 138 § 34 Allowing an employee under the age of 18 to sell Alcoholic Beverages**
- Alleged Violation of MGL 138 § 34A Failure to display Underage Alcohol Penalties Poster**
- Alleged Violation of MGL 138 § 34D Failure to display required OUI Alcohol Poster**
- Alleged Violation of 204 CMR 2.01(10) Failure to display Alcohol License**
- Alleged Violation of City of Haverhill Ordinance § 100-5 Failure to comply with TIPS Training Requirement**

-Incident that occurred on or about March 20, 2025, at 17:12

[Chairperson Angus prefaced the item by disclosing that HPD Detective Douglas Angus, involved in this incident, is her son and asked if anyone had objections to her sitting in on the hearing. No objections]

Sergeant Kevin Lynch presented the facts. The Haverhill Police Department conducted an underage alcohol compliance-check operation with the help of five operatives under 21 years old. At approximately 5:12PM, two underage operatives each ordered and purchased a beer. When asked for IDs, an operative said “I’ll go get it” before the employee said “never mind”. This employee that completed the sale was only 17 years old, however the beers were served by a different employee – over 18 years of age but not TIPS certified. At this point, Sgt. Lynch was notified and arrived at La Pizza DiForno – the manager on duty, Sokol Qirjako, had since returned after being temporarily absent during the sale. Sgt. Lynch noted three missing items legally required to be displayed: the Liquor License, an OUI Violations poster, and an Underage Drinking Violations poster. He repeated that neither employee involved in the handling of the beers were TIPS certified.



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Evangellos Asprogiannis, manager, was sworn in. He said the 17-year-old employee knew he was required to ask for a TIPS certified manager when patrons asked for alcohol and that two such managers were present that evening, despite the employee's failure to do so. He also explained that the other employee that handled the beers was recently hired and being trained to use the registers, and therefore not yet TIPS certified. He agreed there was "no excuse" for the minor's actions. The manager then assumed responsibility for the failure to display his liquor license. He explained that its frame had broken and he neglected to repair it, but did so the day following the incident. As for the posters, he said he could not locate them and reached out to the License Commission Clerk for assistance – he has since received two new copies that are now up for display. He provided proof of all three to Sgt. Lynch. Additionally, the manager stated that, on the same night of the incident, he had the manager on duty lock the alcohol cooler which can now only be unlocked by a manager or TIPS certified employee. He also said he had 6 employees do an in-person TIPS certification course in November. Commissioner Koutoulas verified if Mr. Asprogiannis was the manager on record and if Sokol Qirjako was TIPS certified – the manager confirmed both. The Commissioner asked if Mr. Qirjako was present at the time of the incident – the manager said he thought he was but Kevin Lynch stated he had been absent to run an errand. The manager added that a different TIPS certified employee was present but did not notice the sale as he was attending to another task, though admitting there was "no excuse". Mr. Asprogiannis said he chose to not terminate the 17-year-old employee but assured the Commission that he would not reoffend. Commissioner Driscoll noted the manager's efforts following the incident and remarked this was the business' first offense in 7 years. Commissioner Koutoulas expressed she believed the business should be placed on a short probation. She then asked if the employee who handled the beers during the incident will be TIPS recertified in-person – the manager responded that their employment had actually been terminated, but that he recently hired a new employee that was TIPS certified. He also said he planned to redo an in-person course in the Fall, perhaps a joint venture with other Haverhill organizations – Commissioner Koutoulas and Chairperson Angus agreed it was a good idea. The Chairperson noted the manager's proactivity following the incident and echoed that this was his first offence in 7 years.



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Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to place La Pizza DiForno on a 3-month probation, until July 3rd, 2025.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, motion passed.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

16. OTHER BUSINESS

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Driscoll motions to adjourn.

Second: Commissioner Koutoulas seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0 vote unanimous, meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

No Public Comment.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas K. Flynn

License Commission Clerk