

City of Salem, Massachusetts



**"Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A ss. 18-25 and
City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."**

The City Council Committee on Ordinances, Licenses and Legal Affairs co-posted with the Committee of the Whole

met in the Council Chamber on September 23, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

for the purpose of discussing the matters(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on

September 21, 2021 at 9:22 A.M.

(This meeting is being recorded)

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT WERE: None

Also in Attendance: Beth Rennard, City Solicitor; Anil Mezini, owner of Jaho; Marci Costa, attorney for Mr. Mezini

SUBJECT(S)

Tag Days: SHS Football October 3, 2021, SHS Marching Band November 6, 2021 & SHS Percussion Ensemble & Winter Guard December 4, 2021.

Councilor Sargent moves for approval of the three Tag Days, seconded by Councilor Hapworth. Passes 5-0.

#382 Home Rule Petition for additional all alcohol liquor license for Jaho 130 Canal St.

#383 Home Rule Petition for additional all alcohol license for Jaho 57 Loring Ave

The Committee discussed both items together.

Ms. Rennard explains that this came from the Licensing Board and requires approval because it is over the cap for our liquor licenses. When licenses are available on the market to be sold, this process for a Home Rule Petition is not necessary. (Okea Sushi's license is available for sale but it is only for beer and wine.)

Councilor Prosniewski asks if this is a seasonal license. Ms. Rennard explains that both are annual, all alcohol licenses. She also explains that the license is tied to the location and can't be sold to be used at any other location, because it is through a Home Rule Petition. The process includes that a fee is established for the license, assessed by the Licensing Board. They take the market rate for an all alcohol license and discount this prices by 25% because this type of license is tied to the address and can't be moved, and therefore has a diminished value. The Board then sets the timeframe for the license holder to pay the fee, which has been 5 years.

Councilor Sargent states that he is fine with the license at the Canal Street location but has some hesitation about the Loring Avenue location because of the residential neighborhood and location in the Salem State University campus area. Although he doesn't think Jaho will be a problem, he is concerned that someone can buy the license and open an even larger establishment that could become a problem. This location is next to Rainbow Terrace and Salem State University.

Mr. Mezini explains that he needed to go before the ZBA because his business is non-conforming. Any other business would need obtain the same approval.

Ms Costa, 28 State St. Boston, states that Mr. Mezini has multiple locations in Boston, near colleges and residences and there have been no issues with the businesses. Jaho brings a relaxing European atmosphere, not a college bar atmosphere.

Councilor Sargent asks if restrictions can be added to the HRP to limit future use of the liquor license, so that it is not used for a much larger establishment that may cause issues in the neighborhood. Ms Rennard states that she will research whether these types of future use restrictions can be added to the petition.

Councilor Hapworth moves to grant #382 Home Rule Petition for additional all alcohol liquor license for Jaho 130 Canal Street, seconded by Councilor Dominguez. Motion passes 5-0.

Councilor Dominguez moves to keep #383 Home Rule Petition for additional all alcohol liquor license for Jaho 57 Loring Ave in committee to give Ms Rennard time to determine if the HRP can be amended to include guidelines for future uses of the liquor license, seconded by Councilor Prosniewski. Motion passes 5-0.

Councilor Morsillo states that the committee will bring this back for further discussion within 2-3 weeks.

On the motion of C. Sargent the meeting adjourned at 6:58 P.M.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Morsillo", is written over a horizontal line.

(Chairperson)