



This meeting was held in City Council Chambers, second floor, City Hall, 375 Merrimack St. on Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 6:00 PM, and by Zoom invitation.

Video of this meeting is available: <https://www.youtube.com/@LTCLowellMA>

ROLL CALL:

On a roll call at 18:01, members present were, namely: **Commission Chair Donahue, Commissioner Krieger, Commissioner Mercier, Commissioner Underwood, and Commissioner Uong.**

MINUTES:

- 1 Acceptance of the meeting minutes for August 13, 2026.

Move approval by Commissioner Krieger; seconded by Commissioner Mercier. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

- 2 Ratification of an application by Juan Gonzalez, for a "Special One Day License to sell/dispense All Alcoholic Beverages" for the Salvadorean Festival, held on Sunday, August 30, 2026, from Noon to 9 PM at JFK Plaza, 50 Arcand Drive.

Juan Gonzalez appeared before the Commission. He confirmed that the festival had security officers as well as two police officers on site; Captain Peaslee confirmed that there were no issues.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Uong. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

- 3 Application by Amanda Etinge, for the following "Special One-Day Licenses to sell/dispense Wines and Malt Beverages only" at the Hellenic Center, 41 Broadway Street:
 - Ratification of an application for "Henrietta's Graduation Ceremony" on Saturday, August 22, 2026, from 7 PM to 1 AM.
 - "Usman Traditional Wedding" on Friday, September 9, 2026, from 6 PM to 1 AM.

Ms. Étinge joined the meeting via Zoom. She reviewed her events and explained that the event on the 22nd was a change in venue.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Krieger; seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

- 4 Applications by Rachel Chandler, for "Special One-Day Licenses to sell/dispense Wines and Malt Beverages only" at Hive Public Market, 101 Paige Street:
 - Ratification of an application for "Local Music Spotlight" on Sunday, August 30, 2026, from 7 to 11 PM.
 - "O'Donnel Wedding" on Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 4 to 9 PM.

Ms. Chandler reviewed her events and noted that the wedding was actually private. She confirmed for the Commission that she is TIPS Certified and uses TIPS Certified bartenders.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Krieger; seconded by Commissioner Uong. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

- 5 Application by Corey Belanger, for a "Special One Day License to sell/dispense Wines and Malt Beverages only," for a 'Bicentennial Book Release' to be held on Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 2:30 to 5:30 PM at the Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack Street.

Mr. Belanger spoke to the Commission about the event.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Krieger. 5 years, APPROVED.

- 6 Application by Bob Sisson, of the Mike McNeil Organization, for a "Pub Crawl License," for the 'Mike McNeil Crawl for a Cure,' to be held on Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 5:00 PM to Midnight in Downtown Lowell.

Mr. Sisson spoke about the "Crawl for a Cure" annual fundraiser his organization has held in Lowell for the last twelve years. Captain Peaslee confirmed that LPD has not had any issues with the Pub Crawl.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Krieger. 5 years, APPROVED.

- 7 Petition by Kazanjian Used Parts Inc., 705 Dutton Street, Class 3 Auto Dealer and licensed Junk Dealer, to change conditions of the Junk Dealer license.

No one appeared before the Commission to represent the business.

- 8 Application for Second Hand Motor Vehicles – Used Car Dealer, Class II, for King Cars Inc., Georges Elchammas, President, for premises at 93 Chelmsford Street, a 17,000 square foot open lot with total space for twenty-nine vehicles with 600 square feet of office space.

Mr. ElChammas appeared before the Commission and explained that he has bought out his partner of the last five years and now has full ownership of the dealership. He explained that he wanted a new name and a new Business Entity to distinguish it from his other business at another address, which is a repair shop. He confirmed that the dealership would not be performing repairs on site.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Mercier; seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 5 years, APPROVED.

- 9 Public hearing for an application by Takeo LLC, [d/b/a] BonChon Restaurant, Victor Vang, license manager, for alteration of premises of an "All Alcoholic Beverages" restaurant license for premises at 1075 Westford Street.

Victor Vang appeared before the Commission. He noted that he is increasing his floor space, mainly for the bar, within his building. He confirmed for Commissioner Mercier that he would have to get his occupancy updated.

At the public hearing, no one spoke in favor or in opposition of the application.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Uong; seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 5 years, APPROVED.

- 10 Compliance hearing regarding allegations of misconduct charged against Picante Entertainment Group Inc. [d/b/a] Tesco Center, 70-72 Middlesex Street, Ernesto Lugo, License Manager, all

alcoholic beverages restaurant licensee. Allegations of misconduct occurred June 28, 2026, regarding failure to comply with Alcoholic Beverages Regulations for Licenses Issued by the Lowell License Commission, specifically 2.04.

At the hearing held by the License Commission on September 3, 2026, the following individuals appeared before the licensing board:

Ernesto Lugo, Alcohol License Manager for Picante Entertainment Group Inc.,
Attorney Brian Akashian for Picante Entertainment Group Inc.,
Captain David Peaslee of the Lowell Police Department,
Crime Analyst Kylee Jedraszek of the Lowell Police Department, and
Assistant City Solicitor Thomas Wood.

Captain Peaslee read Superintendent Gregory Hudon's request for the hearing into the record.

Regarding the allegation of "under 21 events:" Social media posts showed that Picante Entertainment Group Inc. [d/b/a] Tesco Center promoted a 14+ event. The event was later changed to an 18+ event, which is still subject to section 2.04 of Lowell License Commission Alcoholic Beverages Regulations regarding "Under 21 Events." The License Commission confirmed that Picante Entertainment Group Inc. held the event without obtaining "expressed consent of the License Commission," and therefore concluded that Picante Entertainment Group Inc. was in violation of 2.04.

Motion of finding a violation of 2.04 by C. Krieger, seconded by C. Underwood. The Commission, in a roll-call vote, unanimously agreed to the finding of a violation of 2.04. Motion to place the matter on file by C. Krieger, seconded by C. Mercier. In a roll-call vote, the Commission determined to place the matter on file: 4 yeas, 1 nay (C. Underwood).

- 11 Compliance hearing regarding allegations of misconduct charged against Picante Entertainment Group Inc. [d/b/a] Tesco Center, 70-72 Middlesex Street, Ernesto Lugo, License Manager, all alcoholic beverages restaurant licensee. Allegations of misconduct occurred July 26, 2026, regarding failure to comply with Alcoholic Beverages Regulations for Licenses Issued by the Lowell License Commission: 1.06, 1.16, and 1.21.

At the hearing held by the License Commission on September 3, 2026, the following individuals appeared before the licensing board:

Ernesto Lugo, Alcohol License Manager for Picante Entertainment Group Inc.,
Attorney Brian Akashian for Picante Entertainment Group Inc.,
Captain David Peaslee of the Lowell Police Department,
Officer Ben Zaim of the Lowell Police Department,
Officer Liam Phillips of the Lowell Police Department,
Officer Augustin Ruiz of the Lowell Police Department,
Officer Adam DeAngelis of the Lowell Police Department,
Civilian Kylee Jedraszek of the Lowell Police Department, and
Assistant City Solicitor Thomas Wood.

Captain Peaslee read Superintendent Gregory Hudon's request for the hearing into the record.

Regarding the allegation of "intoxicated patron:" Video footage and still photos were provided, which established that the patron of concern, Mr. Linton, a 20 year-old, was in line to enter the nightclub, was permitted to enter the nightclub, spent some time in the nightclub, and then exited the nightclub – shortly thereafter having an altercation with Lowell Police. Police on site and police who had custody of Mr. Linton from the time of the altercation to his evaluation at Lowell General Hospital, Saint's Campus, testified that Mr. Linton's demeanor and behaviors (including instability, erratic behavior, and slurred speech) were those of an intoxicated individual. The License Commission concluded that either (1) Mr. Linton was intoxicated when he was admitted into the nightclub – which is a violation of 1.21 – or (2) he became intoxicated while he was in the nightclub and was not evicted from the premises – which is also a violation of 1.21.

Regarding the allegation of failure to meet all "Manager's Responsibilities" (1.16) by not maintaining order and decorum in the premises and in all immediately surrounding areas adjacent to the licensed premise: During testimony, both the License Manager, Ernesto Lugo, of Picante Entertainment Group Inc. [d/b/a] Tescobar, and Officer Ben Zaim agreed that the incident occurred about 10 yards (30-40 feet) from the entrance of the nightclub. Testimony and video evidence also showed an unruly crowd of approximately 300 persons surrounding the area adjacent to the licensed premises. License Commission determined, based on video footage, testimony, and the fact of the incident itself, that the licensee failed to maintain order.

Motion by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Underwood to find the licensee in violation of 1.16 and 1.21. In a roll-call vote, the Commission unanimously agreed that the licensee was in violation of regulations 1.16 and 1.21 of the Lowell Alcoholic Beverages Regulations.

Motion by C. Krieger, seconded by C. Uong to suspend Picante Entertainment Group Inc.s alcohol license for three days. The Commission, in a roll-call vote, unanimously agreed on suspending the Picante Entertainment Group Inc.'s license for three days and that the dates be a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Attorney Akashian negotiated with License Commission that the days be September 25, 26, & 27th.

- 12 Continuation of the Public Hearing to discuss Lowell Alcoholic Beverages Regulations.

Motion to continue public hearing at the October 15, 2026, License Commission meeting by Commissioner Krieger; seconded by Commissioner Mercier. 5 years, APPROVED.

- 13 Request for a public hearing for an application by Valerie GEO Inc [d/b/a] Sophia's Greek Pantry North, Valerie Georgouloupoulos, proposed license manager for transfer and change of location of a "Wine and Malt Beverages" package store license to 484 Merrimack St. Request public hearing be held at the September 17, 2026, License Commission meeting.

Motion to hold a hearing at the September 17, 2026, License Commission meeting by Commissioner Uong; seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 5 years, APPROVED.

- 14 Communications to Commission regarding incidents and events.

Motion to place the matters on file by Commissioner Mercier, seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Krieger made a motion to adjourn at 20:24, seconded by Commissioner Underwood. 5 yeas, APPROVED.

Submitted by: John Pyers

Executive Secretary

Minutes are prepared mainly per RONR(12th ed.) 48:2.

