



The City of Worcester

License Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2026

Attendance:

Commissioners Present:

Anthony Vigliotti, Chair
Charran Fisher, Commissioner
Maritza Cruz, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present:

Sgt. Thomas Needham, Worcester Police Department
Officer Patrick Harrington, Worcester Police Department
Officer Wesley Lojko, Worcester Police Department
Amanda Moran, Law Department
Deborah Steele, Licensing

Call to Order – 10:00 A.M.

Minutes: June 25, 2026

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of June 25, 2026.

Requests for Continuances, Extensions, Postponements, & Withdrawals

One Day Liquor & Entertainment Requests

1. Latin American Business Organization, Inc., Worcester Common
Request for one day liquor license
Request for one day entertainment license for live music, bands
 - Sunday-August 16, 2026-Noon-7:30 p.m.

Commissioner Cruz recused herself from the item.

Elizabeth Cruz and Hector Pina appeared upon behalf of the applications. She stated that this is a cultural/educational festival. She stated that they expect about 2,000 to 2,500 people. She stated that she

is working with the special events group on obtaining police details. She stated that porta potties will be on site. Mr. Pina stated that the alcohol will be purchased from Quality Beverages. Mr. Pina stated that he owns several restaurants and staff who are TIPS certified will be at the event.

Sgt. Needham asked how the alcohol area would be fenced off. Mr. Pina stated that fencing will be around the beer garden and there will be two police details and two people will be carding everyone and putting wristbands on the participants.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 2-0 to approve the one-day liquor & entertainment licenses.

List of Exhibits:

Exhibit A: Application for one day liquor license received and dated June 24, 2026.

Exhibit B: Application for one day entertainment license received and dated Jun 24, 2026.

2. Family Fun Day, Institute Park

Request for one day entertainment license for dancing by patrons, live music, karaoke

- Saturday-August 8, 2026-Noon-5:00 p.m.

Mark Desordy, participating remotely, stated that this is a fundraiser. He stated that there will be a live DJ. He stated he has called for porta potties. He stated that he is expecting about 300 people and volunteers will help with the event.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day entertainment license.

List of Exhibits: Application for one day entertainment license received and dated June 30, 2026.

3. Pride Worcester, 28 Franklin Street

Request for one day liquor license

Request for one day entertainment license dancing by patrons, tv, dancing by entertainers, recorded music, live music

- Saturday-September 12, 2026-2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to postpone the items to the July 23, 2026, License Commission meeting.

4. Pam Mass Challenge, 1 College Street

Request for one day liquor license

- Friday-July 31, 2026-2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
-

Sue Brogan, participating remotely, stated that this event will be held at Holy Cross College. She stated that about 2,700 people are expected and Worcester Police and College of Holy Cross has security and they will have seven TIPS certified staff for event.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one-day liquor license.

List of Exhibits: Application for one day liquor license received and dated June 24, 2026.

5. WICN Public Radio, Inc., 30 Federal Street
Request for one day liquor license
Request for one day entertainment license for live music
 - Friday-August 21, 2026-6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Melanie Pearl Lebeouf, participating remotely, stated that this is their yearly jazz festival and Hanover Theatre will provide the certified staff and security. She stated that the event is behind the theatre and is fenced off.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the one day liquor and entertainment licenses.

List of Exhibits:

Exhibit A: Application for one day liquor license received and dated June 22, 2026.

Exhibit B: Application for one day entertainment license received and dated June 22, 2026.

Common Victualer Requests

6. Quinsigamond Gas & Market, LLC, 75 Quinsigamond Avenue
Sunday Operating Hours*
24/7
Monday Operating Hours*
24/7
Tuesday Operating Hours*
24/7
Wednesday Operating Hours*
24/7
Thursday Operating Hours*
24/7
Friday Operating Hours*
24/7
Saturday Operating Hours*
24/7

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to continue the application to the July 23, 2026, License Commission meeting.

7. Pasta Mani, Worcester Public Market
Request for common victualer license to prepare food on site to sell at Farmer's Market

Jason Midwood appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that he will be utilizing the kitchen at the market to make pasta to sell at farmer's markets.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the common victualer license.

List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license received and dated June 30, 2026.

8. Aretha's Kitchen, 807 Main Street

Sunday Operating Hours*
closed
Monday Operating Hours*
9am to 9pm
Tuesday Operating Hours*
9am to 9pm
Wednesday Operating Hours*
9am to 9pm
Thursday Operating Hours*
9am to 9pm
Friday Operating Hours*
9am to 9pm
Saturday Operating Hours*
9am to 9pm

Aretha Baker appeared upon behalf of the application. She stated that she is looking for new common victualer license as she is moving locations.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the common victualer license.

List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license received and dated June 30, 2026.

9. Sabor Colombiano Authentic Columbian Food, Worcester Public Market

Sunday Operating Hours*
11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Monday Operating Hours*
closed
Tuesday Operating Hours*
closed
Wednesday Operating Hours*
11:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Thursday Operating Hours*
11:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Friday Operating Hours*
11:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Saturday Operating Hours*
11:00 AM - 8:00 AM-

Jennifer Villamizar appeared upon behalf of the application. She stated that she is looking to open a new Columbian restaurant at the Worcester Public Market.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the common victualer license.

List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license received and dated June 30, 2026.

10. Red Cup Coffee, LLC, 304 Shrewsbury Street

Sunday Operating Hours*

08:00AM- 05:00PM

Monday Operating Hours*

07:00AM-05:00PM

Tuesday Operating Hours*

07:00AM-05:00PM

Wednesday Operating Hours*

07:00AM-05:00PM

Thursday Operating Hours*

07:00AM-05:00PM

Friday Operating Hours*

07:00AM-05:00PM

Saturday Operating Hours*

08:00AM- 05:00PM

Darshan Mody appeared upon behalf of the application. He stated that he will be opening a new coffee shop on Shrewsbury Street

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the common victualer license.

List of Exhibits: Application for common victualer license received and dated June 30, 2026.

Alcohol/Entertainment Requests

11. Paku Paku, Inc., 215 Chandler Street

Request for entertainment license for tv, amplification system, karaoke, DJ

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to continue the application to the July 23, 2026, License Commission meeting.

12. Italian American World War Veterans of the US Inc. Post 3, 14 Itam Court

Request for change of manager

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to continue the application to the July 23, 2026, License Commission meeting.

13. Momo Palace, LLC dba Momo Palace, 142B Highland Street

- Request for restaurant all alcohol license

Chair Vigliotti stated that the Commission members had viewed the site prior to the meeting.

Tanuj Neupane appeared upon behalf of the application and stated that he is looking to obtain alcohol for his restaurant.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the restaurant all alcohol license.

List of Exhibits: Application for restaurant all alcohol license received and dated June 3, 2026.

Status Hearings

14. Italian American World War Vets of The US, 14 Itam Court
Failure to file amendment paperwork

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to continue the application to the July 23, 2026, License Commission meeting.

15. New Golden Pizza, 1137 Grafton Street
Status of plumbing inspection and items that need to be updated at location

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to file the item.

16. Myron Katz, 667 Main Street
Status of corrections on lodging house license

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to continue the item to the July 23, 2026, License Commission meeting.

17. Odd by Nature, LLC, 20 Front Street
- Surrender of liquor license
 - Request for refund for payment of 2026 liquor license

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to refund the 2026 liquor license fee.

18. Suveroo, LLC dba Maya Lounge, 5 Saugus Place
Request for reconsideration of License Commission vote of July 11, 2026

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 that the establishment stay closed until transfer of liquor license is completed.

Violation Hearings

19. Dubai Restaurant & Lounge, Inc. dba Mexi Town, 105 Water Street
Violation of Rules #14, #16 and 204 CMR 2:05

Lisette Rodriguez appeared to answer to the violation and waived her right to counsel. Sgt. Needham presented the following:

On April 3, 2026, members of the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission and the Worcester Police Department Alcohol Enforcement Unit went to Dubai Restaurant & Lounge dba Mexi Town to conduct a compliance check.

Upon approaching the premises, the investigators observed a large line of patrons waiting to enter the Licensed Premises. Stanchions were located at the main door monitored by security personnel and it was immediately apparent that staff were not controlling the flow of patrons waiting to gain entry. The front entrance/exit was noticeably blocked making it a safety concern in an event of an emergency.

As investigators entered, they were met by a female who was monitoring the cover charge for patrons. The female was identified as Olivia Vanagel and was not an employee of the premises but was a friend of the person hosting the party.

Located inside the entrance of the Licensed Premises was a cash box, Venmo & Cash App. QR-Code with Ms. Vanagel's information. Ms. Vanagel informed Sergeant Thomas Needham that the cover charge was \$15 per person to enter.

Officer Patrick Harrington made his way to the rear of the premises and observed dinner tables pushed towards the outer walls, low lighting, extremely loud music, dancing by patrons and little to no food. It was clear that this was nightclub activity and not a typical restaurant setting.

Officer Harrington was met by staff and due to the loud music went to the kitchen area to speak. Staff were advised of the situation, and it was also noted the kitchen area was not active and the equipment was turned off, indicating no food service. While within the kitchen area a strong odor of something burning was detected. A further investigation revealed a lit hookah within rear prep area. This premises is not permitted for indoor smoking.

Staff were advised to contact the manager of record, but were unsuccessful.

It should be noted that on March 27, 2026, the staff at the premises were previously advised that their license is for restaurant use and not a night club. At that time, they were given instructions if they wished to pursue a nightclub license designation they would need to apply for a change in use and follow all state and local rules and regulations.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that they did have a promoter that night and they were not aware that was going to happen. Ms. Rodriguez with regard to the hookah that was an employee who is no longer with the premises as that is not allowed.

Sgt. Needham stated that the evening staff of the Licensed Premises was present and was aware that a cover charge was being collected.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 that the violation did occur.

The Commission noted that there was a three day suspended suspension on record from December 2025.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 that the violation did occur.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to issue the three day suspended suspension as well as a five day suspension with three days to be served. The six days to be served are July 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31. The remaining two days will remain on the licensee's record from a year from the hearing date any if any further violations occur the two days will be served along with any suspension the Commission imposes.

List of Exhibits: Police report dated April 20, 2026.

20. BMW Group, Inc. dba Panda Buffet, 97 Stafford Street
Violation of Rule #14

Attorney Bornstein and Xueyun Lin appeared upon behalf of the violation.

Sgt. Needham presented the following;

On February 08, 2026, at approximately 1800 hours First Half Operations Officers were dispatched to Brookline St. for a reported Indecent Assault and Battery. Upon arrival they spoke with an identified victim who stated she was an employee at Panda Buffet located at 97 Stafford St. She stated that while at work this evening she and another male employee who she only knows as "Barry" were cleaning in a secluded area of the dining room. She stated that the male employee waived her over to him at which time he grabbed her arms and the back of her head and attempted to kiss her. The victim was able to break away from him, at which time the male grabbed her breast area. The victim immediately notified the Manager, known to the victim as "Winnie", of the indecent assault and battery. The manager of the business later identified as Xue Yun Lin was on scene working in her capacity as manager that evening. The victim then left the restaurant and went home. Once the victim got home, she called the police and returned to the restaurant with her father. There were no calls to Worcester Police Dispatch from the business or Ms. Lin reporting the incident as required by Rule 14 after being made aware of the assault and battery.

Operations officers spoke to Lin in an attempt to obtain information on the male employee involved. She stated that the male who she knows as "Barry" was fired and was no longer on scene. She stated she couldn't provide any other information on him because he had only been working there for a few days. Officers attempted to access the interior cameras of the restaurant but were told by management that only the owners can access them and they live in New Hampshire. A report was filed and forwarded to the Sexual Assault Unit.

On February 20, 2026, Officer Glenn Stout assisted Detective Joseph Ford with a follow up regarding the incident that occurred on February 08, 2026. Upon arrival we asked the hostess to speak with the Manager. We were told he was in the bathroom, and he would be right out. Approximately 20 minutes later Colby Yang met with us. Detective Ford asked him if there was a place we could talk, Mr. Yang brought us over to the hostess station. Detective Ford asked him if he had an office someplace a little more private, he stated yes and walked us into a walk in storage closet at the back of the restaurant. Officer Stout asked Mr. Yang again if there was an office we could go to. He finally escorted us through the kitchen to the business office.

Inside the office, we observed the CCTV system and monitors all appeared to be operating. We also observed a number of filing cabinets. Colby Yang stated he was not an employee at the restaurant, but he was just filling in for Xue Yun Lin who was currently in China. Mr. Yang was aware of the incident that occurred on February 08, 2026. He stated that the male employee involved was from New York and had been fired. He couldn't provide the employee's information or the video evidence to us.

Yang was able to contact Lin by phone. Officer Stout spoke with Xue Yun Lin via cell phone. Lin stated that she couldn't retrieve the suspect's information or the video due to her not being in the country. She stated her partner, who she identified as "Jess" could help us. "Jess" was later to be identified as Xiao Yan Lin. Xiao Lin is listed as the Vice President and partner with Xue Yun Lin. Officer Stout spoke with Xiao Yan Lin via cell phone. Officer Stout explained to her that we needed the suspect/employee information of the male involved in the incident on February 08, 2026, and we also needed the video evidence from their CCTV system. She stated she was sick and couldn't come to the restaurant, but she could get us the employee information and video and email Detective Ford the next day. Detective Joseph Ford received the email containing the requested information the next day from Xue Yun Lin.

It should be noted that on the night of the incident, Xue Yun Lin (Manager) was working and the employee information and video evidence requested by the initial responding patrol officers would have been available for her to provide. Had Lin provided the requested information on the night of the incident, it would have expedited the investigation. The video evidence that was given to Detective Ford from "Jess" on Saturday February 20, 2026, was scheduled to be automatically overwritten by the CCTV recording system on Monday February 22, 2026. The inaction of Xue Lin on the night the incident was reported, could have possibly resulted in the loss and inability to retrieve any video evidence pertinent to the indecent assault allegation, therefore potentially impacting the thorough investigation of the incident. Fortunately, this was not the case and after further investigation by Detective Ford, criminal complaints for Indecent Assault and Battery have been requested against the former employee.

Officer Wesley Lojko stated that he took the report at 97 Stafford and after speaking with the victim he went to Panda Buffet and attempt to obtain some suspect information and when he went to the restaurant he spoke with Ms. Lin she stated she couldn't provide name or date of birth or any information that could identify the male as he only worked there for a handful days. Officer Lojko asked if he could access the video footage and Ms. Lin stated that she couldn't retrieve that the video evening.

Sgt. Needham stated that after the incident Officer Stout and Officer Ford contacted the license holder and were able to obtain the video.

Attorney Bornstein stated that he had viewed the video of the incident and described it as very disturbing. He said the manager would never want anyone to experience such an unfortunate incident and acknowledged that the situation could have been handled better that evening.

Attorney Bornstein explained that, when the incident occurred, the manager was not informed of what had happened and was only told that the staff member had gone home because she was not feeling well. He stated that this information should have been communicated more promptly and that the license holder has since implemented procedures to ensure that such information is reported immediately.

Attorney Bornstein further argued that the violation cites Rule #14 but does not establish a correlation to the sale or service of alcoholic beverages.

Attorney Vigliotti responded that Rule #14 pertains to the manager's responsibility for the licensed premises. He stated that the license holder has taken corrective measures and is working internally to ensure that incident reports and other required information are communicated without delay.

Commissioner Cruz asked whether the staff member who allegedly assaulted the waitress had been apprehended. Sgt. Needham stated that the Worcester Police Department was still searching for the individual and added that, had the license holder provided the information immediately, the suspect might already be in custody.

Commissioner Cruz also questioned how the employee who allegedly committed the assault was terminated if the manager was initially unaware that the incident had occurred.

Ms. Lin stated that another employee informed her of the incident afterward, at which point she terminated the employee involved. Attorney Bornstein added that the assaulted employee's boyfriend was also searching for the individual who allegedly committed the assault.

Attorney Bornstein acknowledged that there had been a clear breakdown in communication and stated that the situation should have been handled more effectively when police responded to the premises.

Commissioners Cruz and Fisher stated that the alleged sexual assault was an egregious incident and expressed that the license holder's failure to respond promptly to law enforcement was highly irresponsible.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 that the violation did occur.

The Commission noted that the License Holder has just appeared few months prior on a violation and received a warning at that hearing.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to issue a five day suspension with two days served July 29, 2026 and July 26, 2026.

List of Exhibits: Police report dated April 2, 2026

21. Suveroo, LLC dba Maya Lounge, 5 Saugus Place

Violation of Rule #14, MGL c.138§23, Rule #14, 204 CMR 2.05, 204 CMR 4.03

Roopali Kummarikuntla and Ashok Kummarikuntla appeared to answer to the violation and waived right to counsel.

On May 23, 2026, members of the Worcester Alcohol Enforcement Unit were notified of a possible liquor violation at the Licensed Premises. A social media post indicated a "Happy Hour" violation (giving alcohol away for free). The Licensed Premises was identified as "Maya Lounge"

The License Commission had received no notification of change of doing business from the ownership/management of the Licensed Premisesl.

Sgt. Thomas Needham and Officer Patrick Harrington went to the Licensed Premises and met with Daianara Rosario and Luis Abreau. Ms. Rosario identified herself as the manager of the Licensed Premises and then explained that she was in the process of purchasing the business and changed the name to District Lounge 2-3 weeks ago. During the conversation both parties explained that the City of Worcester was already notified of the transfer through her attorney. No application had been received at that time by the License Commission. Ms. Rosario further explained that she paid \$3800 towards renovations of the Licensed Premises, \$2700 in attorney fees and \$30,000 towards the business that she believed was held in escrow by the attorney.

A further check of the current posted liquor license revealed an expired 2025 license. At that time Sgt. Needham and Officer Harrington proceeded to make their way outside and encountered a patron utilizing an e-cigarette/vape with the main bar area. Staff was advised of the “no smoking” within the Licensed Premises.

A check of the Massachusetts Secretary of State’s website showed that a change in the corporation structure had taken place which had not been approved by the local Commission or the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. Additionally, Ms. Rosario was listed recently on a requested transfer of the liquor license and is listed as manager with no beneficial interest which contradicts her May 23, 2026, statements.

Mr. Kummarikuntla stated that the information that had been read into the record was accurate.

Commissioner Fisher asked Ms. Kummarikuntla how many days per week she is present at the premises. Ms. Kummarikuntla responded that she is usually there two days a week. Sgt. Needham stated that whenever there has been an incident at the premises, officers have only seen Ms. Kummarikuntla's husband present.

Ms. Kummarikuntla stated that they attempted to sell the business last year, but the sale did not go through due to fraud. She further stated that they have since submitted a new transfer application. However, she said they do not know why the proposed new owner changed the LLC name or why the proposed owners were promoting the new business name on Instagram before the transfer had been approved.

Commissioner Fisher stated that if Ms. Kummarikuntla were regularly present at the premises, she would know what was occurring and would have control over the business.

Commissioner Cruz stated that Ms. Kummarikuntla and Mr. Kummarikuntla appeared to have no control over the business.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 that the violation did occur.

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 that the license remain under suspension until the transfer of the liquor license is completed.

List of Exhibits: Police report dated June 24, 2026

Communications

Law Department communication dated Jun 25, 2026, re: Time period for notice of violation hearings.
Filed

Adjournment

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m.