

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF BOSTON'S NEW 225 LIQUOR LICENSES

**WHEREAS,** Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a bill that would create 225 new liquor licenses in Boston, finishing the process that began with the Boston City Council passing a home-rule petition in 2023; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Those 225 liquor licenses have a theoretical cumulative private market value of more than \$100 million, a nearly unprecedented economic development opportunity in the 13 ZIP Codes where they are earmarked; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The 13 ZIP Codes include streets such as Blue Hill Avenue and neighborhoods such as Mattapan that have historically lacked for sitdown restaurants and the economic generation that they can spark; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Liquor licenses are crucial to the success of a sitdown restaurant as alcohol sales are twice as profitable as food sales to a restaurant; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The current and would-be restaurateurs will need guidance and support on running a restaurant business that serves alcohol as well as applying for a liquor license through the city's Licensing Board; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Many of these restaurateurs might face issues accessing information in English and/or during normal city operating hours; *and*

**WHEREAS,** In order to reach the most diverse group of would-be restaurateurs, the city should expand its basic information sessions, licensing application tutorials and small business courses to be offered in several languages, held in the community and online, during normal working hours and in the evenings; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Boston should market these license opportunities through in-person canvassing on main streets as well as through digital outreach; *and*

**WHEREAS** A full three-year plan for marketing and distribution of the liquor licenses should be finalized with the support of the City Council and with the greatest transparency possible; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

***ORDERED:*** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing on the creation of information sessions and small business support mechanisms for the new 225 liquor licenses, and that the appropriate representatives from Small Business, Licensing Board and the Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion attend.

Filed on: September 13, 2024