



City of Boston
Mayor Michelle Wu
Licensing Board

Commissioners:
Kathleen M. Joyce, *Chairman*
Keeana S. Saxon
Liam P. Curran
Executive Secretary:
Daniel R. Green

THE CITY OF BOSTON LICENSING BOARD ADVISORY TO STAY ALERT AND PROTECT YOUR MOBILE DEVICE AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

Issued: January 10, 2025

The primary goal of the Licensing Board for the City of Boston (the “Board”) is to ensure the safety, security, health, and welfare of patrons at all licensed premises. The Board regulates more than 3,000 licensed premises in the City of Boston, approximately 1,400 of which hold licenses to sell alcoholic beverages. Recently, there has been an increase in larcenies at licensed premises involving stolen cell phones. Victims have reported discovering that their financial accounts were compromised, resulting in multiple fraudulent charges and unauthorized withdrawals. The Board urges all licensed premises to take an active role in helping prevent these crimes by reminding staff to remain vigilant and advising patrons to stay alert and safeguard their personal electronic devices.

Licensed premises are encouraged to:

- **Remind Patrons to Secure Their Devices:** Encourage patrons to lock their devices with passcodes and remain aware of their surroundings.
- **Display the Attached Flyer:** Use the provided flyer to prominently remind patrons of steps they can take to protect their phones and financial data.

The following tips can help patrons better secure their personal devices and financial information:

- **Lock Your Device with a Passcode:** Utilizing a pin code every time you unlock your phone is the easiest way to keep your mobile data secure.
- **Shoulder Surfing:** Be aware of your surroundings. Individuals may stand close by and watch as you enter passwords for applications. Many companies offer screen protectors that can obscure your screen from onlookers as you use your devices.
- **Avoid Automatic Logins:** Don't store your usernames and passwords on your device. Sign out of each application every time you are finished.
- **Make Sure to Enable Passcode Features on Any Financial Apps:** Many online banking and credit card apps have a passcode feature that can be enabled. If possible, only utilize apps that offer this important feature.
- **If Your Phone is Stolen:** Immediately secure your device remotely by enabling 'Lost Mode' or remotely wiping all data from the device and contact police immediately.



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- Be sure to quickly change any passwords connected to the stolen device, noting that even apps that offer 'Two Factor Authentication' may be jeopardized as the thief likely will have access to both your email account and text messages.

By working together, licensed premises and their patrons can help prevent theft and keep personal information secure.

Any questions should be directed to the Board's Executive Secretary, Danny Green, who can be reached at (617) 635-4170 or licensingboard@boston.gov.

For the Board,

Kathleen Joyce

Kathleen Joyce
Chairwoman

PROTECT YOUR MOBILE DEVICES



- LOCK YOUR PHONE WITH A PASSCODE**
A simple passcode can stop thieves in their tracks.
- STAY AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS**
Watch for anyone standing too close or acting suspiciously.
- AVOID AUTOMATIC LOGINS**
Keep apps and accounts secure by logging in manually.
- ENABLE PASSCODES ON FINANCIAL APPS**
Add an extra layer of protection to banking and payment apps.
- ACT FAST IF YOUR PHONE IS STOLEN**
Secure your device remotely and change your passwords immediately.