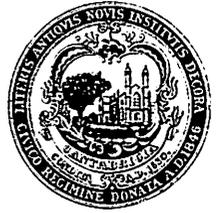


Andrea S. Jackson
Chairperson

CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION



Chief Gerald R. Reardon
Fire Department
Commission Member

831 Massachusetts Avenue, First Floor, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

City of Cambridge

Commissioner Robert C. Haas
Police Department
Commission Member

Elizabeth Y. Lint
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard C. Rossi
City Manager

FROM: Andrea S. Jackson *AS*
Chairperson, License Commission

DATE: June 2, 2015

RE: Awaiting Report 15-30 and 15-41, Regarding License Commission Fees and Cap Areas

Awaiting Report 15-30 and 15-41 requests that the City Manager determine if there are any proposed increases to Common Victualer (CV) and Liquor License renewal fees and to make the License Commission aware of the Council's opposition to any fee increases proposed for liquor licenses.

Please be advised that the License Commission has not discussed nor have they considered any fee increases for CV or liquor licenses since 2013. Previous discussions regarding increasing the Liquor License fees were related to bringing parity between the no-value non-transferable licenses that are issued for free and the for value transferable licenses that can cost in excess of \$100,000.

Awaiting Report 15-30 also seeks to determine if there is a liquor license cap in Central Square and, if so, to determine the suitability of raising the liquor license cap in Central Square, as well as in other parts of the City.

Between 1986 and 1990 the License Commission created 15 cap areas. A copy of the areas is attached. The cap areas were created in order to encourage food oriented restaurants and eliminate the so called barrooms that were prolific in the City. No new liquor licenses could be issued in those areas. A category of no value licenses was created to allow the so called "mom and pop operations" or those catering to food oriented, non-bar and non-entertainment operations to afford such licenses. Anyone interested in applying for a new alcohol license could apply to break the cap in any of the 15 delineated areas and must show that there is a need in the area for another license, lack of harm to the area and overwhelming neighborhood support.

The September 2006 Amendment included consideration of a cap to cap transfer when there were available licenses in other Cap areas. Additionally, an applicant could apply to break the cap as a last resort, after every effort to purchase an existing license was exhausted, in addition to the other requirements.

The 2008 amendment defined what constitutes overwhelming neighborhood support, such as petitions, letters of support from businesses, customers and residents in the area. It also increased the area of abutters to be noticed from 100' to 300'. Numerous new licenses have been issued in several cap areas throughout the City since 2008.

There are also two capped buildings within the City of Cambridge that were created as a result of neighborhood concerns. One is the One Kendall Square complex and the other is the Porter Exchange Building located at 1815 Massachusetts Avenue.

The above demonstrates that exceptions to the cap areas can be made when applicants demonstrate an effort was made to purchase an existing license, the lack of harm to the neighborhood and overwhelming neighborhood support.

The License Commission staff is in the process of reviewing the rules and regulations relating to Alcoholic Beverages and Entertainment to determine, what, if any changes need to be made.

CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION

CAP AREAS

CAP AREA 1.

Passed April 11, 1986. Harvard Square. Quincy Street to Cambridge Common to Waterhouse Street to Radcliffe College to Brattle Street to Story Street to Mt. Auburn Street to John F. Kennedy Street to Dunster Street to Massachusetts Avenue to Prescott Street.

CAP AREA 2.

Passed April 11, 1986. Massachusetts Avenue from Prescott Street. Putnam Square to Bigelow Street.

CAP AREA 3.

Passed April 11, 1986. Central Square. Massachusetts Avenue from Bigelow Street including Bishop Allen Drive, Green Street to Sidney Street (W), Franklin Street to Brookline Street, Massachusetts Avenue to Main Street at Windsor Street to State Street.

CAP AREA 4.

Passed July 22, 1986. Harvard Square at Harvard Law School at Follen and Waterhouse Streets, Massachusetts Avenue to edge of Porter Square to Frost Terrace and Arlington Street.

CAP AREA 5.

Passed October 14, 1987. Porter Square including Massachusetts Avenue to Regent Street to Davenport Street, White Street and White Street Place.

CAP AREA 6.

Passed March 25, 1986. North Cambridge. Massachusetts Avenue at Regent Street all the way to the Arlington town line.

CAP AREA 7.

Passed September 30, 1986. Inman Square. Hampshire Street from 258 Beacon Street to Elm Street. Elm Street to Somerville city line. 1079 Cambridge Street to Somerville city line.

CAP AREA 8.

Passed April 25, 1990. East Cambridge. On Cambridge Street, from Railroad tracks to First Street to Monsignor O'Brien Highway to Somerville city line.

CAP AREA 9.

Passed April 25, 1990. East Cambridge. From Railroad tracks up Binney Street to west side of First Street to Otis Street to Railroad tracks.

CAP AREA 10.

Passed April 25, 1990. Huron Avenue from Concord Avenue to Belmont Cemetery.

CAP AREA 11.

Passed April 25, 1990. Concord Avenue from Follen Street to Bay State Road to Garden Street to Sherman Street to Garden Street to Follen Street.

CAP AREA 12.

Passed April 25, 1990. West Cambridge. West side of Alewife Brook Parkway to Railroad tracks to Fawcett Street to Mooney Street to Blanchard Road to Concord Avenue to Alewife Brook Parkway.

CAP AREA 13.

Passed November 13, 1990. The boundary line goes down the middle of Harvard Street, the Railroad tracks, and York Street. The boundary line goes down the parcels on the west side of Windsor Street so as to include parcels on both sides of that street.

CAP AREA 14.

Passed April 25, 1990. Concord Avenue to Fresh Pond Parkway to Huron Avenue.

CAP AREA 15.

Passed April 25, 1990. East side of Alewife Brook Parkway to Railroad tracks to Sherman Street to New Street to Fresh Pond Parkway to Concord Lane.