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SPECIAL LICENSING BOARD MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 22, 2020

A meeting of the Salem Licensing Board was held on Monday, **October 22, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.**, via ZOOM, an online video conference call system. Present on call were: Chairman Gary Barrett, members Deb Greel and Gary Santos, Jr., Clerk of the Board, Melissa Pagliaro and City Solicitor Elizabeth Rennard.

Massachusetts State Law provides that establishments with licenses for on premise consumption of alcoholic beverages may serve alcohol between 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. Local licensing Boards may grant extended closing hours between 11:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. In Salem, hours are extended to 1 a.m. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, large crowds expected in our downtown in the coming weekends and the resulting concern by local health officials of an uptick in cases as a result, the Salem Licensing Board shall discuss and vote on rolling back the sale of alcoholic beverages for on premise consumption in the downtown Central Business District (B5) and the Congress and Derby Streets Business Neighborhood (B1) zoning districts to 11 p.m. (limit of the Licensing Board's authority on closure time) on Friday, October 23, Saturday, October 24, Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31, 2020. A map of the zoning districts may be found on the City's website:

[https://www.salem.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif3756/f/uploads/zoning_map_2018 -
_60_inch_horizontal_streetlist_landscape.pdf](https://www.salem.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif3756/f/uploads/zoning_map_2018_-_60_inch_horizontal_streetlist_landscape.pdf)

City Solicitor Rennard informed the Board and audience members that the Board of Health issued an order on October 21, 2020 that requires all businesses in the B5 and Derby and Congress St. B1 zones to close at 8pm on October 30 and 31, 2020. The Board gave the health agent authority to modify this closing time if the weather is bad or some other factor that may warrant a later closure. She suggested that the Board still consider closing liquor establishments at 11 for both weekends so that in any event no restaurant would be open after 11. Early closure is recommended to avoid long lines and the street party atmosphere that often comes with Halloween celebrations.

The Board took questions from attendees via the Zoom Q&A feature. Attendees were informed that an 11pm closure means patrons must be out of the building by 11, last call at 10:30 pm and no alcohol on tables at 11. Attendees were informed that food could be served until 1am closure, if allowed by the Board of Health, but no alcohol. Also, following a question about which Board controls, the attendees were informed that the Board's Order would be superseded by the Order of the Board of Health and any modifications made by the Health Agent.

After the Q&A concluded, the Board voted, by roll call vote, to roll back the hours of the sale of alcoholic beverages for on premise consumption in the downtown Central Business District (B5) and the Congress and Derby Streets Business Neighborhood (B1) zoning districts to 11 p.m. on Friday, October 23, Saturday, October 24, Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Rennard