



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

To: Town Clerk's Office Staff

From: Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

Date: July 21, 2026

Re: Summary of Council Member Recommendations – Liquor License Policy/Procedure

The following is a summary of the recommendations submitted by individual members of the Town Council regarding the Town's current liquor license procedure. This memorandum is intended only to provide a brief overview of each member's recommendation regarding how the Town should proceed.

The individual written recommendations submitted by each Council member should be reviewed in their entirety for the full reasoning, considerations, and details supporting each recommendation.

- **Councilman Timothy Sweeney** – Recommends replacing the current unwritten six-month practice with a formal, written, risk-based policy utilizing individualized review. A new restaurant applicant meeting all state and local requirements, receiving favorable departmental recommendations, and presenting a complete and responsible operating plan would be eligible for a full Class BV license, with an administrative compliance check-in approximately two to three months after issuance. The Council would retain discretion to impose conditions, issue a limited/provisional license, continue an application, or deny an application when specific concerns are identified.
- **Councilman Tony Teixeira** – Recommends that the review/probationary period be based primarily upon the applicant's prior experience and circumstances. New applicants without previous

relevant experience would be subject to a six-month review period before receiving a full liquor license. Applicants from outside Bristol with established prior experience would be subject to a three-month Limited BV review period before receiving a full license. Transfers to a new owner without demonstrated relevant experience would also be subject to a three-month trial/review period before transfer of the full license. Background checks and verification of prior violations or records would be part of the review process.

- **Vice Chairwoman Mary Parella** – Recommends allowing an applicant to receive a full liquor license without first completing the existing limited-license period only when the applicant can demonstrate that they personally owned or managed a restaurant with a full liquor license for at least 18 months within the previous three years. The experience would need to be verifiable, including verification with the police chief in the community where the prior establishment operated. Qualifying applicants receiving a full license would be subject to Council reviews every three months during the first year. Applicants without qualifying ownership or management experience would not be eligible for this option
- **Councilman Aaron Ley** – Recommends eliminating the current practice requiring newly created liquor licenses to begin with a six-month Limited BV license. Instead, a new establishment would be eligible to receive a full Class BV license from the outset, subject to a uniform probationary/review period consisting of two Council check-ins at three-month intervals. This approach would apply consistently whether the license is newly created through the ordinance process or obtained through a transfer.

Note: *This memorandum is intended solely as a condensed summary of the recommendations submitted. Please refer to each Council member's original written submission for the complete recommendation, supporting rationale, and additional considerations.*