

Item #H2, Review of Municipal Licensing Practices

RECEIVED AT MEETING

From bergie@hhcne.com <bergie@hhcne.com>

Date Wed 7/29/2026 3:00 PM

To Melissa Cordeiro <mcordeiro@bristolri.gov>

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Dear Melissa,

Please forward this to the Town Council Members for tonight's meeting. Thanks.

Dear Members of Town Council,

Thank you for finally seeking an alternative to the current inequality that exists when granting a BV License to new restaurants wanting to open. By changing the current policy which grants only a 6 month beer/wine license to new establishments to a full liquor license results in doing what is best for Bristol as opposed to doing what is good for Bristol.

This change should promote many positive results: it will allow all restaurants (new and existing) to compete on a level playing field for financial success: it will open up opportunities for new establishments wanting to come here by eliminating the current 6 mth policy: it will result in additional tax dollars for the town based on increased liquor sales: it will result in more employment opportunities for Bristol citizenry. Instead of wishing new restaurants success you are now helping them succeed.

RI has 39 cities and towns and yet only Bristol is the only one with this 6 month beer/wine license. Last year when 205 Thames Street was vacant, we had numerous restaurant owners approach us about leasing the property.. but each one bailed out when they realized the current 6 month policy the town follows. Let's look at math for an explanation - a bottle of wine is 1.75 ml or 25 oz. At 6 oz pour gets you 4 glasses. At average \$15.00 per glass gets \$60 revenue. Cost of bottle is \$20 nets you a profit of \$40. A bottle of rum or gin is around 1.75 liters or 60 oz. A 2oz pour gets you 30 pours. Average sell is \$15. so 30x 15 gets you \$450 in revenue. If cost is \$30 that gets profit of \$420. With only a beer/wine license one has to sell 90 beers or 12 bottles of wine to equal a profit of \$420 from rum/gin. As anyone can see the financial hardship of the 6 month beer/wine policy just isn't helping gain financial success. Frankly it is unfair. It needs to change to granting a full BV license and join the other 38 cities and towns. If a restaurant meets all State and Local requirements (TIP Certified) they should be granted a full BV license.

It's a slippery slope if you now base it on experience (subjective) or base it on different criteria if you are from outside Bristol. If you owned or managed a successful restaurant having a full liquor license for the past 9, 12, or 24 months in the past 3 years you would not be granted a full BV license in Bristol? That seems more than unfair. Let's make the playing field level for all. By eliminating the unwritten 6 month policy and grant full BV Licenses with a monitoring system to assist in maintaining success. Thanks

Sincerely,

Tom Bergenholtz