



City of Westfield, Massachusetts
LICENSE COMMISSION

Commissioners
Christopher Mowatt, Chr.
Edward Diaz
Alice Dawicki

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 COURT STREET
WESTFIELD, MA 01085
Phone: 642-9302
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LICENSE COMMISSION
Monday, February 9, 2026
Municipal Building
59 Court Street, Westfield, MA
Council Chambers Room 207 at 6:00 PM

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2026

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

MINUTES

Meeting convened at 6:00 PM.

Chairman Mowatt and Commissioner Diaz were present. Commissioner Dawicki was absent.

Upon motion of Commissioner Dawicki, and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: The minutes for January 12, 2026 be TABLED due to Commissioner Dawicki's absence and Chairman Mowatt having been absent from the previous meeting.

The next License Commission meeting was scheduled for March 9, 2026.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: NONE

REGULAR MEETING:

3. Request for BYOB Approval — Tabled from January 12, 2026: Mark Baldyga, Trustee for St. John's Church, is requesting approval to secure a one-day beer and wine license, which has been successfully obtained for this event over the past three years, for an event scheduled for February 28, 2026 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 60 Broad Street.

Chairman Mowatt stated that Mark Baldyga, Trustee for St. John's Lutheran Church, has withdrawn their application for their requested event; therefore, and the item was UNTABLED.

4. PUBLIC HEARING for Transfer of License FROM: Tekoa Country Club, Inc., David Ference, manager TO: Samjan Corp., d/b/a Tekoa Country Club, 459 Russell Road, Westfield, for Annual,

Restaurant, All Alcoholic Beverages, Gaurang Panwala, proposed manager. The premises consist of 2 floors, 20,150.00 sq.ft. 14 rooms on the 1st floor and 2 on the 2nd floor. 3 entrances and 7 exits. Outdoor area has 18-hole golf course, with an outdoor patio, deck and ceremony site. Gaurang Panwala was present to represent the application. His attorney was not present. Chairman Mowatt read the Public Hearing notice into the record.

Mr. Panwala stated that he has operated several liquor stores in the state for the past 15 years and has extensive experience in the industry. He noted that he is TIPS certified and understands business operations. He added that, although this would be his first on-premises establishment, he is familiar with what should and should not be served and the precautions that must be taken.

Chairman Mowatt asked whether any of his staff have experience in a bar or restaurant setting. Mr. Panwala stated that he does not intend to replace any of the current staff, and that all employees will remain following the transfer, with the exception of one individual who is relocating out of state. He added that the remaining staff are on board with the new ownership.

The Commissioners had no further questions.

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: To go into public participation.

Chairman Mowatt asked the audience if anyone would like to speak IN FAVOR of the application. No one spoke IN FAVOR.

Chairman Mowatt asked the audience if anyone would like to speak OPPOSITION of the application. No one spoke OPPOSITION.

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: To go to DELIBERATION.

DELIBERATION

Chairman Mowatt stated that the application was complete and satisfactory. He noted that the new ownership team intends to retain the existing staff and that everyone is on board with the transition. He added that even if staffing changes were to occur, the new manager has extensive overall business experience. Commissioner Diaz agreed.

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: To APPROVE Transfer of License FROM: Tekoa Country Club, Inc., David Ference, manager TO: Samjan Corp., d/b/a Tekoa Country Club, 459 Russell Road, Westfield, for Annual, Restaurant, All Alcoholic Beverages, Gaurang Panwala, manager. The premises consist of 2 floors, 20,150.00 sq.ft. 14 rooms on the 1st floor and 2 on the 2nd floor. 3 entrances and 7 exits. Outdoor area has 18-hole golf course, with an outdoor patio, deck and ceremony site.

5. Review and Approve additional licenses for Samjan Corp., d/b/a Tekoa Country Club, 459 Russell Road, Westfield, for Annual Restaurant, All Alcoholic Beverages, Gaurang Panwala, proposed manager.

a. Common Victualler License to sell prepared packaged foods.

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: To APPROVE the application for Common Victualler License to sell prepared and packaged foods for Samjan Corp., d/b/a Tekoa Country Club, 459 Russell Road, Gaurang Panwala, manager.

Chairman Mowatt asked if the operations of the kitchen will remain the same. Mr. Panwala stated that all the operations will remain the same.

b. Entertainment License to PLAY: karaoke, bands, DJ, vocal music, and general dancing by patrons.

Chairman Mowatt asked whether they were planning to hold the same activities. Mr. Panwala stated that everything would remain the same, including the banquet hall, and that they would retain the current banquet manager.

Chairman Mowatt asked whether there would be any changes to the capacity or footprint of the premises. Mr. Panwala stated that there would not be any changes at this time.

Chairman Mowatt also asked Mr. Panwala whether he understood the requirements and additional responsibilities associated with holding an Entertainment License. Mr. Panwala stated that he understood.

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: To APPROVE the application for Entertainment License to PLAY: karaoke, bands, DJ, vocal music, and general dancing by patrons for Samjan Corp., d/b/a Tekoa Country Club, 459 Russell Road, Gaurang Panwala, manager.

6. Section 14, Special One Day Liquor Licenses previously approved by the Chair:

a. St. Mary's High School, 27 Bartlett Street, Hope Tremblay, mgr., High School Gym, Designer Bag Bingo, Friday, February 6, 2026, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. To dispense wine and malts only.

7. Section 14, One Day Liquor Licenses to be approved by the License Commission:

a. Westfield Woman's Club, Inc., 28 Court Street, requesting wine and malt beverages only for Mystery Theater Dinner Fundraiser, clubhouse & theater, Jean Rosenblun, pres., Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM. JoAnne Podalski was present to represent the application. She explained that the event would serve as a fundraiser for the remodeling project and briefly described its nature. Ms. Podalski also provided updates on the remodeling projects that have been completed, those currently in progress, and those still remaining.

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: To APPROVE the application for Westfield Woman's Club, Inc., 28 Court Street, requesting wine and malt beverages only for Mystery Theater Dinner Fundraiser, clubhouse &

theater, Jean Rosenblun, pres., Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM. Fee waived due to non-profit status.

b. Westfield State University Dining, 577 Western Avenue, requesting wine and malt beverages only for Comedy Fundraiser, Scanlon Banquet Hall, Melissa Sikes, dir., Thursday, March 5, 2026 from 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM.

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: To APPROVE the application for Westfield State University Dining, 577 Western Avenue, requesting wine and malt beverages only for Comedy Fundraiser, Scanlon Banquet Hall, Melissa Sikes, dir., Thursday, March 5, 2026 from 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM. Fee waived due to non-profit status.

8. Police Incident Reports

Chairman Mowatt read the police incident reports into the record.

#25-42537 – Hutghi’s at the Nook – 8 Franklin Street

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: To FILE the police incident report #25-42537.

#25-42547 – The Whip – 287 North Elm Street

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: To FILE the police incident report #25-42547.

#25-42582 – Tavern Restaurant – 2 Broad Street

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: To FILE the police incident report #25-42582.

#26-792 – Hangar Bar & Grill – 29 School Street

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: To FILE the police incident report #26-792.

#26-2830 – Short Stop Bar & Grill – 99 Springfield Road

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: To FILE the police incident report #26-2830.

At 6:23 PM and upon motion of Commissioner Diaz and duly seconded by Commissioner Dawicki, it was unanimously VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A True Record, Attest

Valentina Rafalskiy

Head Licensing Clerk



Christopher Mowatt, Chair

WESTFIELD LICENSE COMMISSION'S MISSION STATEMENT TO SERVE THE PUBLIC NEED AND PROTECT THE COMMON GOOD OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, BY ENSURING THAT ALL LICENSEES GOVERNED BY THE COMMISSION OPERATE IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

