Pawtucket Board of License Commissioners
October 21, 2026

A regular session of the Pawtucket Board of License Commissioners was held Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 7:01 p.m., in the Pawtucket Municipal Annex, City Council Chambers, 1st floor, 100 Freight Street, Pawtucket, RI.

Present – President Mercer; Councilors Araujo, Coderre, Gregor, Moreno, Stachowiak and Wildenhain.

Absent – Councilors Moran and Rubio.

Chairperson Mercer presided.

The reading of the records of October 7, 2026 was dispensed with and the records were APPROVED as prepared by the Clerk.

Upon motion made by Councilor Araujo, seconded by Councilor Moreno, the *Consent Agenda was APPROVED, on a unanimous voice vote.

*THE FOLLOWING PETITION FOR LICENSE WAS APPROVED ON A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE:

VICTUALLING HOUSE First Class New –

Providence Express (Providence Express Inc.) 756 East Ave. LIC#VIC-26-23

THE FOLLOWING PETITION FOR LICENSES WAS APPROVED ON A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE:

ENTERTAINMENT & CLASS F (Beer & Wine) –

Petition of Burbage Theatre Company, for a license to conduct a Burbage Theatre Company's Big Time Celebration – Fundraising Gala at 59 Blackstone Avenue to sell beer & wine on Monday, October 26, 2026, from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. LIC#EVT-26-88

THE FOLLOWING PETITION FOR LICENSES WAS APPROVED ON A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE:

ENTERTAINMENT & CLASS F-1 (Full Privilege) -

Petition of Burbage Theatre Company, for a license to conduct the Second Annual Little Mx. Burbage Halloqween Drag Night, and to sell food and alcoholic beverages at 59 Blackstone Avenue, on Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 9:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. LIC#EVT-26-90

THE FOLLOWING PETITION FOR LICENSE WAS APPROVED ON A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE:

ENTERTAINMENT & EXPANSION OF PREMISE (One Day) –

Petition of German American Cultural Society of RI, 78 Carter Avenue, for a license to conduct an indoor and outdoor Christmas Market and for a one-day expansion of their Class D Liquor License to serve alcoholic beverages outside, on Saturday, November 28, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. LIC#EVT-26-91

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THE FOLLOWING PETITION FOR LICENSE WAS APPROVED ON A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE:

ENTERTAINMENT & EXPANSION OF PREMISE (One Day) –

Petition of Societe Jacques Cartier Cercle No. 4, for license to conduct the Jacques Cartier Corn Hole Tournament and for a one-day expansion of their Class D Liquor License to serve food and alcoholic beverages at 816 Main Street, (outdoors) on Saturday, October 24, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. LIC#EVT-26-89

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE, WHICH WAS ADVERTISED FOR A HEARING AT THIS TIME, WAS TAKEN UP:

CLASS B (VICTUALLER) New –

Isla Express (Isla Express LLC) 584 Smithfield Avenue, LIC#LQB-26-9®
(Prev. 20/20 Hookah Lounge)

Speaking in support was Judy Henriquez, 19 Earl Street, Lincoln, RI, applicant. Also present was Giselle Pacheco, 19 Earl Street, Lincoln, RI.

Ms. Henriquez stated that she has 25 years of experience in the food service industry. She has owned and operated a restaurant in Providence for the past 10 years.

The Pawtucket establishment will be more of a cafeteria style, fast-food restaurant, not a lounge. It has been operating for approximately three to four months
.
The hours will be Monday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 or 8:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. and on Sunday they will have brunch until 7:00 p.m.

The business has 10 parking spaces.

Lunch is the busiest time of day. The establishment has an open takeout window, indoor seating will be available for people who want to have a drink. Customers will be permitted to have drinks with their meals; however, there will be no bar on the premises.

Speaking in opposition was Taisha Long, 588 Smithfield Avenue, Pawtucket (via Zoom).

Ms. Long stated that customers frequently park in and in front of her driveway and in front of her house. She also noted that tenants occupy some of the establishment's 10 parking spaces, further limiting available parking.

She stated that when she raised her concerns with the restaurant owner, she felt that her concerns were disregarded. She described the customers as rude and expressed concern that the situation would worsen if alcohol service were permitted. She also stated that she had to contact the police regarding these issues.

Speaking in opposition was Gabriella Colonette, 588 Smithfield Avenue, Pawtucket (via Zoom).

Ms. Colonette reported concerns similar to those raised by Taisha Long, stating that customers park in her driveway and that she has had to go to the restaurant to ask customers to move their vehicles.

She expressed concern that allowing alcohol service could lead to increased disturbances and make the neighborhood rowdier. She also reported problems with rodents and overflowing dumpsters, stating that these issues have caused significant stress. Ms. Colonette opposed allowing the restaurant to remain open late due to the ongoing parking, sanitation, and neighborhood disturbance concerns.

Speaking in opposition was Cynthia Diaz, 596 Smithfield Avenue, Pawtucket, (via Zoom).

Ms. Diaz expressed that she lives in one of the newly constructed units. She noted that she already has to deal with issues involving a nearby bar and its intoxicated customers. She doesn't want another. She is concerned about belligerent customers, parking and rodent issues.

A fourth neighborhood resident, whose name was unclear, spoke (via Zoom) in opposition to the application, stating that the neighborhood had experienced problems with a previous bar at the same location. She also expressed concerns regarding ongoing parking difficulties and rodent problems in the neighborhood.

Ms. Henriquez stated that she owns the property and that the establishment is kept spotless and very clean. She said that her reviews on Google talk about the cleanliness of her establishment. She denied that the rodent issues were caused by her business and noted that she had never experienced similar problems when operating her restaurant in Providence. She also stated that she had cleaned up the surrounding area and that none of the neighbors had contacted her directly to complain.

Ms. Henriquez stated that the police had been called regarding a neighbor. She noted that signage directing customers to park in the rear of the property had been posted.

She expressed her willingness to meet with neighborhood residents to discuss their concerns and emphasized that she intends to operate a family-friendly establishment.

There were no other speakers. The public hearing was closed.

THE CHAIR RECOGNIZED COUNCILOR STACHOWIAK.

Upon motion made by Councilor Stachowiak, seconded by Councilor Araujo, the hearing was CONTINUED and the following petition for license was POSTPONED until the meeting on November 10, 2026, on a unanimous voice vote.

CLASS B (VICTUALLER) New –

Isla Express (Isla Express LLC) 584 Smithfield Avenue, LIC#LQB-26-9®
(Prev. 20/20 Hookah Lounge)

Upon motion made by Councilor Araujo, seconded by Councilor Moreno, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.