



# CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION

831 MASSACHUSETTS AVE, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

NICOLE MURATI FERRER  
CHAIRPERSON | BOARD MEMBER

PAULINE WELLS  
POLICE COMMISSIONER | BOARD MEMBER

THOMAS CAHILL, JR.  
FIRE CHIEF | BOARD MEMBER

KRIS C. FOSTER  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## **NOTICE OF BOARD VOTE REGARDING** **2026 TEMPORARY SUMMER AMENDMENTS/EXTENSIONS**

**Board Voted:** June 15, 2026

**Published:** June 15, 2026

On June 15, 2026, the Board of License Commissioners (the “Board”) discussed its vote of June 10, 2026, regarding “An Act Authorizing Municipalities to Opt-In to a Temporary Pilot to Extend the Hours of Liquor Licenses and to Allow for Public Consumption in Designated Districts in Summer 2026” (the “Summer Act”), the City of Cambridge’s Rules for the open container/public consumption zones, and the implementation of the program. After due notice and discussion, the Board voted (2-0):

To ratify its vote of June 10, 2026, with the following modifications/clarifications:

- (A) Maps of the City updated and accepted as amended. The Board designates the whole of the City of Cambridge as eligible for an open container/public consumption zone, and hereby adopts the City’s designation of the zones and the boundaries as the City deems fit with a blanket adoption of any amendments or changes to the boundaries as issued by the City through July 31, 2026. Acknowledge the City’s Rules and Regulations as to the Program and make sure to incorporate in any permit issued the program’s hours: 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. with last call at 10:45 p.m.
- (B) Clarification on the process to apply – All requests for changes of hours, entertainment and/or service type (i.e. alcohol to-go) must be applied for and approved. The process is to file a One Day Amendment to an Existing License application (one application can be used to apply for multiple dates or the entire season covered by the Summer Act), <https://cambridgema.portal.opengov.com/categories/1096/record-types/6662>. The application will be administratively voted upon by the Chair as designee, with any applicable conditions, as previously agreed upon by the Board, and then ratified by the Board during a regular meeting. The permits will be issued for one week only. Renewals will be granted, if there are no issues, in the same form – administratively by the Chair as designee and ratified by the Board. There is a one-time \$75 fee for the permits due upon the first approval (no fee due for renewals).
- (C) Extension of hours requests for businesses that sell alcoholic beverages that are granted will have the condition that there can be no new patron admittance during the extended hour (which is an amendment from the previously imposed condition of no new patrons after midnight). Extension of hours requests for business that sell food only or have entertainment only will not have the condition.
- (D) Clarification as to the practicality of the rule regarding the single point of sale will be issued as discussed – the rule is meant to address “in and out” patrons. Meaning, the people that are coming into the premises to just grab a drink to-go and then leave. For example, if a diner is done with their meal and their alcoholic drink is unfinished but they want to leave the premises, then they can have the server put that drink in a to-go cup and they can leave with it, provided the business has been approved to participate in the program.

- (E) Reaffirmation/clarification – the alcohol to-go program does not supersede G. L. c. 138, § 12 ½: all delivery and to-go orders placed remotely/in advance either by the customer, through the business’s website or through a third party service, must be accompanied with food, limited to mixed drinks and the quantity to be capped as stated by state law.
- (F) Modification/clarification – Cups to be used in the alcohol to-go program are to be disposable, non-metal and non-glass, cups with the d/b/a of the business that sold it prominently displayed in permanent marker (or any other type of permanent marking). Reaffirmation that the sale of any pre-packaged drink, including spiked seltzers and beers, must also be placed in a cup; glass, cans or metal bottles cannot be taken off premises.

Any business approved to have alcohol to-go sales will be issued a permit which will have all License Commission rules and regulations as to the program listed on it. To wit,

- (1) Only one drink to be sold per customer, per transaction. The customer may return to purchase more, but any to-go sale is limited to one alcoholic drink per customer, per transaction. The sale is to be made to the person intending to consume the beverage (no third-party sales).
- (2) The alcohol volume content of any drink, mixed or otherwise, cannot be altered and must be of the same proportion, size and price as if served for on premises consumption.
- (3) Bottles of wine cannot be sold to-go.
- (4) There can only be one point of sale for to-go alcohol orders staffed by the same person on any given shift.
- (5) There can be no advanced orders placed of to-go alcohol sales.
- (6) All drinks must be served in a disposable, non-metal, non-glass cup with the d/b/a of the business that sold it prominently displayed in permanent marker (or any other type of permanent marking). This includes the sale of any pre-packaged drink, including beers and seltzers. Cans, glass or metal bottles cannot be taken off premises.
- (7) Patrons cannot bring outside alcohol into a licensed establishment, even from another licensed establishment in the public consumption zone.
- (8) It is the licensee’s responsibility to educate the patron as to the area in which they can carry the to-go beverage as they are limited to the designated zone of where the business is located. Licensee must post the map of the open container zone as issued by the City of Cambridge and/or License Commission.
- (9) Must comply with any Rules and Regulations set by the City with regard to open container/public consumption zones, including hours of operation being limited to 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. with last call at 10:45 p.m.

When the permits are issued, the City’s Rules and Regulations will also be provided. Businesses are advised they cannot go beyond the alcohol to-go program hours or their license hours if the span is less than the City’s program hours. The maps of the designated zones, or a link to them, will also be provided. Approved businesses will receive the wristbands from the City – Matt Nelson is the point person ([mnelson@cambridgema.gov](mailto:mnelson@cambridgema.gov), 617-349-4266). The business cannot engage in the service until they receive the wristband from the City and may only use the wristbands for the purposes of identifying patrons to whom they have sold alcohol to-go.

Board Vote Re: 2026 Temporary Summer Amendments/Extensions

Voted: June 15, 2026

Page **3** of **3**

As previously stated, please note that as the summer progresses or questions come in, there may be a need to issue clarification communications as to the above. In the meantime, any questions as to the above or the attached, please reach out: [license@cambridgema.gov](mailto:license@cambridgema.gov), or 617-349-6140.