

CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION

831 MASSACHUSETTS AVE, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

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

Board Voted: June 10, 2026

Published: June 10, 2026

On June 8, 2026, Governor Healy signed “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”). For the time period of June 8 through July 31, 2026, it allows the Board of License Commissioners (the “Board”) to approve: a maximum one hour extension of the alcohol operating sales, not to exceed 3:00 a.m.; and the sale of alcohol to-go for businesses within designated open container/public consumption zones. Attached are the text of the law and an advisory from the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission as to the issue.

As you should be aware, in preparation for the World Cup, on March 24, 2026, during a regularly scheduled meeting, the Board discussed amendments to hours and entertainment. That day, the Board stated any such request would need to be made via the One Day Amendments to Existing License application. A process and fee was set. *See attached Board Vote.* Today, the Board discussed this previous vote in light of the Summer Act. The Board voted as follows:

- A. Open container/Public consumption zones approved as recommended by the City of Cambridge. *See attached maps delineating the zones and list of streets included in the zones.*
- B. Requests to be approved to participate in the alcohol “to-go” sale program and/or any extension of hours (to be limited to 1 hour per the temporary law) are to be done in the manner consistent with the Board’s process as voted upon on March 24, 2026 – meaning that the Licensee must submit a One Day Amendment to Existing License (which can be done for multiple days/weeks), with the modification that the permit fee will be amended to be a flat \$75 fee (rather than \$50/week). The fee is to be paid upon the initial approval. Permits, even when applied for the entire summer period (through July 31, 2026), will only be issued on a weekly basis to be heard by the Board when possible, and otherwise to be administratively voted upon by the Chair as designee and to be ratified by the Board at the next meeting. Extensions, revocations or denial of extensions will be dealt in the same manner – at a meeting, otherwise Chair as designee, and later ratified in a Board meeting. A condition that will be placed on all that request extensions of hours beyond midnight: No new patron entry after 12:00 a.m.
- C. The Board clarifies that the alcohol to-go provision of the Summer Act only applies to § 12 licensees – no pouring licensees, i.e. farmer-brewers, farmer-distillers, farmer-wineries, or manufacturers (G.L. c. 138, §§ 19B(n), C(n), E(o), 19(b)) can engage in this service.
- D. The Summer Act, specifically the alcohol to-go provisions, do not supersede G. L. c. 138, § 12 ½ which requires delivery/take-out orders, including those handled by third-party delivery services, to include a purchase of a meal, and limits the alcohol sold to mixed drinks.

E. For § 12 businesses, only within open container/public consumption districts or zones, the rules/process for sale of alcohol to-go during this period are:

- (1) Prior to engaging in the service of alcohol to-go, you must file a One Day Amendment to Existing License Application identifying the dates and times you intend to sell alcohol to-go.
 - a. Cannot sell for off-premises consumption until approved by Board, except as allowed by G. L. c. 138, § 12 ½ (orders with food for to-go or delivery services).
 - b. The grants/denials will be issued on a weekly basis in accordance with the Board's process for these temporary measures and services.
- (2) 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).
- (3) 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.
- (4) Bottles of wine cannot be sold to-go.
- (5) There can only be one point of sale for to-go alcohol orders staffed by the same person on any given shift.
- (6) There can be no advanced orders placed of to-go alcohol sales.
- (7) All drinks must be served in a clear, disposable plastic 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 or bottles cannot be taken off premises.
- (8) Patrons cannot bring outside alcohol into a licensed establishment, even from another licensed establishment in the public consumption zone.
- (9) 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.
- (10) Must comply with any Rules and Regulations set by the City with regard to open container/public consumption zones.

Please note the City of Cambridge has yet to publish its Rules and Regulations as to open container/public consumption zones. Accordingly, there may be some clarification or additional information to follow. Finally, 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, or 617-349-6140.

HOUSE No. 5482

Text of a further amendment, offered by Mr. Walsh of Peabody, to the Senate amendment of the House Bill 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 (House, No. 5478, amended). June 8, 2026.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

By striking out all after the enacting clause (inserted by amendment by the Senate) and inserting in place thereof the following:—

1 SECTION 1. For purposes of this act, “licensed establishment” shall mean an
2 establishment holding a license for the sale of alcoholic beverages, whether all alcoholic or
3 wines and malt only, to be drunk on the premises pursuant to chapter 138 of the General Laws.

4 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, and subject to
5 sections 4 and 5, a local licensing authority in a city or town may, on a temporary basis, allow a
6 licensed establishment to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption in districts
7 designated pursuant to section 4. Only licensed establishments located within a district
8 designated pursuant to said section 4 may sell alcoholic beverages to be consumed off premises
9 within the district.

10 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, and subject to
11 section 5, a licensed establishment may, subject to approval of the local licensing authority, sell
12 alcoholic beverages on-premises for 1 additional hour beyond the time set forth in the

13 establishment's license, but not to exceed 3:00 a.m. until July 31, 2026, subject to any
14 applicable local rules or regulations and any conditions placed upon its license.

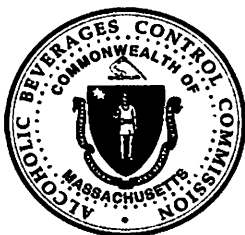
15 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, and subject to
16 section 5, a local licensing authority may designate 1 or more districts in the city or town in
17 which alcoholic beverages are permitted to be consumed off premises, in public spaces, subject
18 to such restrictions as the city or town may deem appropriate and only through July 31, 2026.
19 Alcohol consumed within a district designated pursuant to this section, shall be limited to
20 alcoholic beverages sold by participating licensed establishments located within such designated
21 district.

22 SECTION 5. Nothing in this act shall be construed to permit a licensed establishment to
23 sell any type or category of alcohol beyond the type or category of alcohol that the licensed
24 establishment is permitted to sell under the license issued to it by the local licensing authority
25 pursuant to chapter 138 of the General Laws.

26 SECTION 6. The executive office of economic development, in consultation with the
27 alcoholic beverages control commission, the executive office of public safety and security and
28 the department of revenue, shall report on the implementation and outcomes of the pilot program
29 established by this act. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the number and location
30 of districts designated by municipalities; (ii) the number of communities authorizing
31 establishments to sell alcoholic beverages for off premises consumption in approved districts;
32 (iii) the number of communities authorizing establishments for extended hours of on premises
33 sales; and (iv) any evidence of increased public safety incidents as a result of extended hours of
34 on premise sales. The report shall evaluate any notable changes or observations relative to the

35 pilot and economic development, public safety, and revenue and sales during the pilot, and may
36 make any recommendations to improve outcomes. The executive office of economic
37 development shall file a report not later than December 31, 2026 containing its findings and
38 recommendations with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives.

39 SECTION 7. Sections 1 to 5, inclusive, shall expire on July 31, 2026.



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
95 Fourth Street, Suite 3
Chelsea, MA 02150*

Jean M. Lorizio, Esq.
Chairman

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION (“ABCC”) ADVISORY
REGARDING LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY’S (“LLA’S”) OPTION TO
TEMPORARILY ALLOW ITS ON-PREMISES LICENSEES TO SELL ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGES FOR ONE ADDITIONAL HOUR NOT TO EXCEED 3:00 AM AS WELL
AS THE ABILITY FOR ON-PREMISES LICENSEES LOCATED WITHIN PUBLIC
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONSUMPTION AREAS DETERMINED BY THE LLA
TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR OFF-PREMISES CONSUMPTION**

On June 8, 2026, Governor Maura Healey signed “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” which permits Local Licensing Authorities the option to temporarily allow its on-premises licensees to sell alcoholic beverages for one additional hour not to exceed 3:00 AM as well as the ability for on-premises licensees located within public alcoholic beverages consumption areas determined by the LLA the authority to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption. The law took effect immediately. The text of the law is attached.

LLAs may designate one or more areas in their municipality where alcoholic beverages will be permitted to be consumed in public spaces, subject to restrictions that the city or town may deem appropriate, through July 31, 2026. LLAs may authorize its on-premises licensees within the designated public alcoholic beverages consumption area(s) the ability to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption. Alcoholic beverages consumed within a designated public consumption district are limited to alcoholic beverages sold by participating on-premises licensed establishments located within the designated district.

The law also authorizes LLAs to temporarily allow any of its on-premises licensees to sell alcoholic beverages for one additional hour, not to exceed 3:00 AM, subject to any applicable local rules or regulations and any conditions placed upon its license. On-premises licensees do not need to be within a designated public alcoholic beverages consumption area in order to be eligible for the extra hour of alcoholic beverage service not to exceed 3:00 AM.

Each LLA must inform the ABCC if it decides to opt-in to this new law, which parts of the law it has opted into, what area(s) the LLA has designated for public alcoholic beverages consumption, and what on-premises licensees have extended their operating hours by one hour not to exceed 3:00 AM by uploading a letter to the ABCC’s eLicensing Portal.

Nothing in the law permits a licensed establishment to sell any type or category of alcoholic beverage beyond the type or category of alcoholic beverages that the licensed establishment is permitted to sell under its currently issued license.

The provisions of the law pertaining to public alcoholic beverages consumption areas, on-premises licensees selling alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption, and **the option for on-premises licensees to sell alcoholic beverages for one additional hour not to exceed 3:00 AM expire Friday, July 31, 2026.**

As always, all licensees must ensure that they comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that sales of alcoholic beverages take place only as authorized by federal, state, and local law.

Questions concerning this Advisory may be directed to Ralph Sacramone, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission at (617) 727- 3040 x 731.

(Issued 6/9/2026)



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NOTICE OF BOARD VOTE – ONE DAY LICENSES AMENDMENTS

Board Voted: March 24, 2026

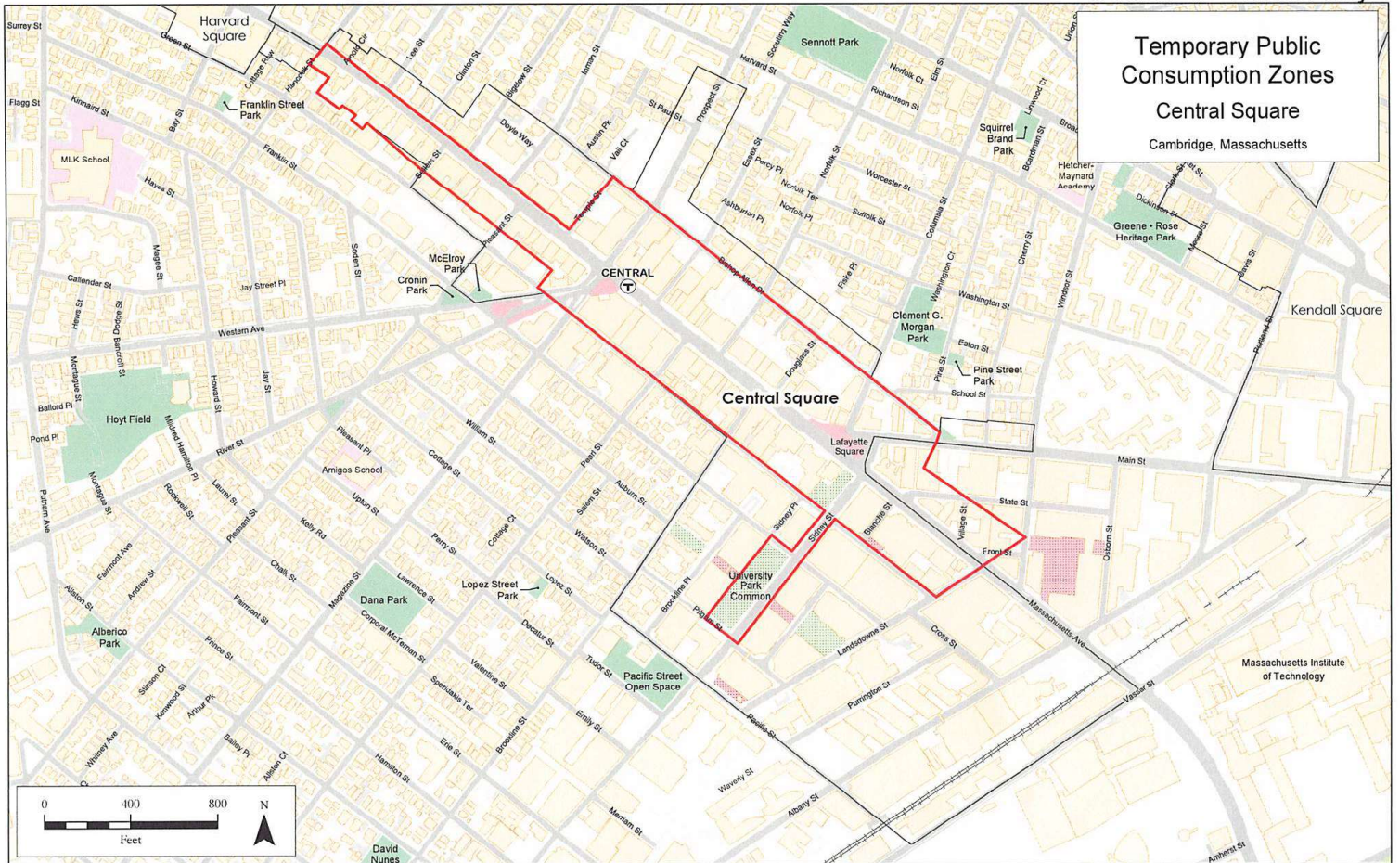
Published: March 24, 2026

On March 24, 2026, during a regularly scheduled meeting, the Board of License Commissioners (the “Board”) discussed the One Day Amendments to Existing Licenses expected to be submitted for World Cup related events during the period of June 11, 2026 through July 17, 2026. The Board discussed how the permit carries a \$50/day fee, and how that would not be economically feasible for businesses as the World Cup is about five (5) weeks long. Accordingly, the Board voted that it will charge a \$50/week fee only as it relates to the World Cup extension requests (any requests of less than a week would also only be charged a lump sum of \$50).

The Board also discussed that the One Day Amendment permits would not be blanketly granted and that businesses would need to appear before the Board for extended requests. In addition, the permits will probably be issued on a weekly basis to ensure there is sufficient public safety personnel to cover the events, and also ensure the businesses are operating safely and not adversely affecting the public or common good.

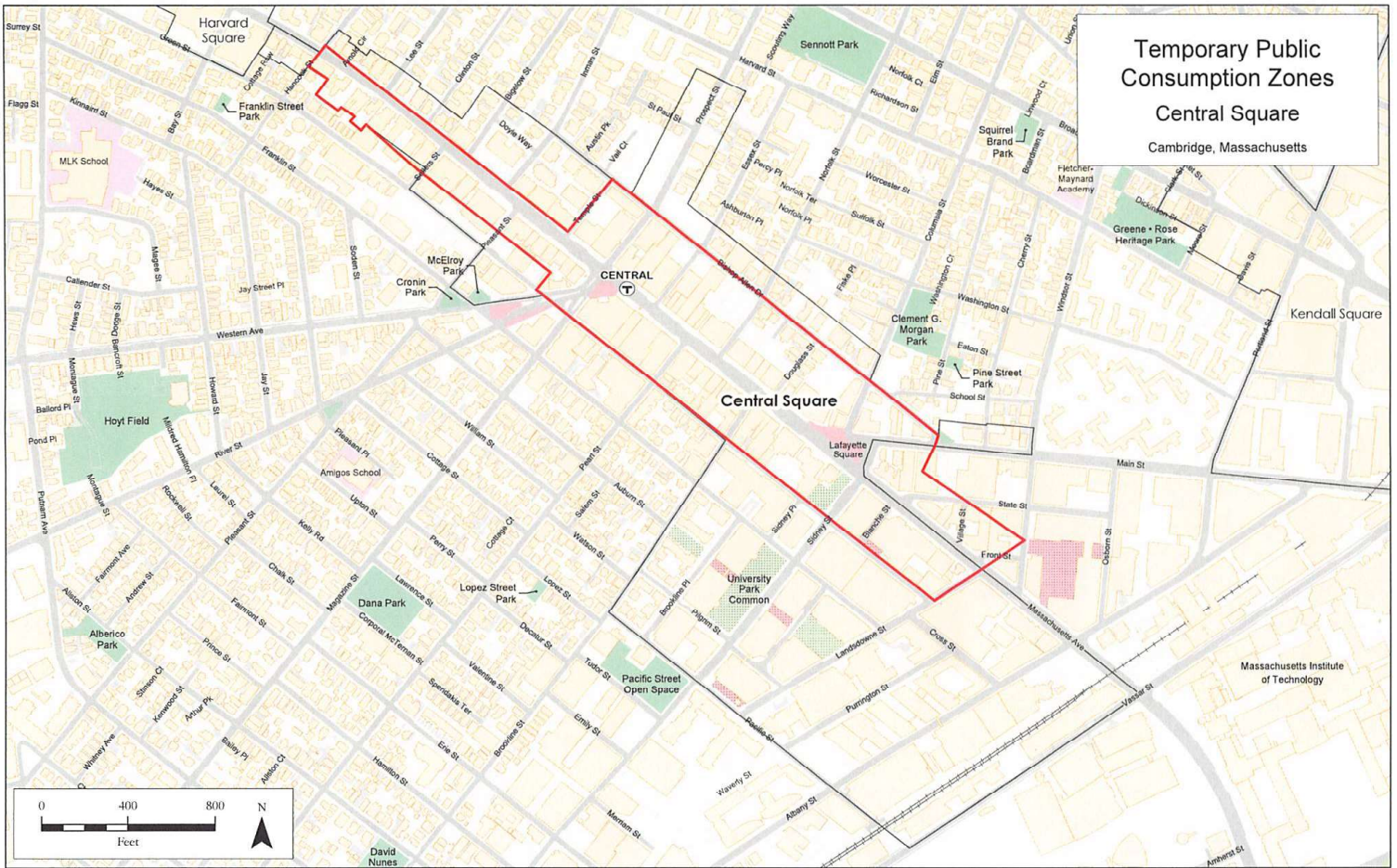
6/13/2026 - Watch Party

Temporary Public
Consumption Zones
Central Square
Cambridge, Massachusetts



Map prepared by Brendan Monroe on June 9, 2026. CDD GIS C:\Projects\Econ_Dev\CommercialDistricts\LicenseCommission\CentralSquareUP_Proposed.mxd

Temporary Public
Consumption Zones
Central Square
Cambridge, Massachusetts



Temporary Public
Consumption Zones
Harvard Square
Cambridge, Massachusetts

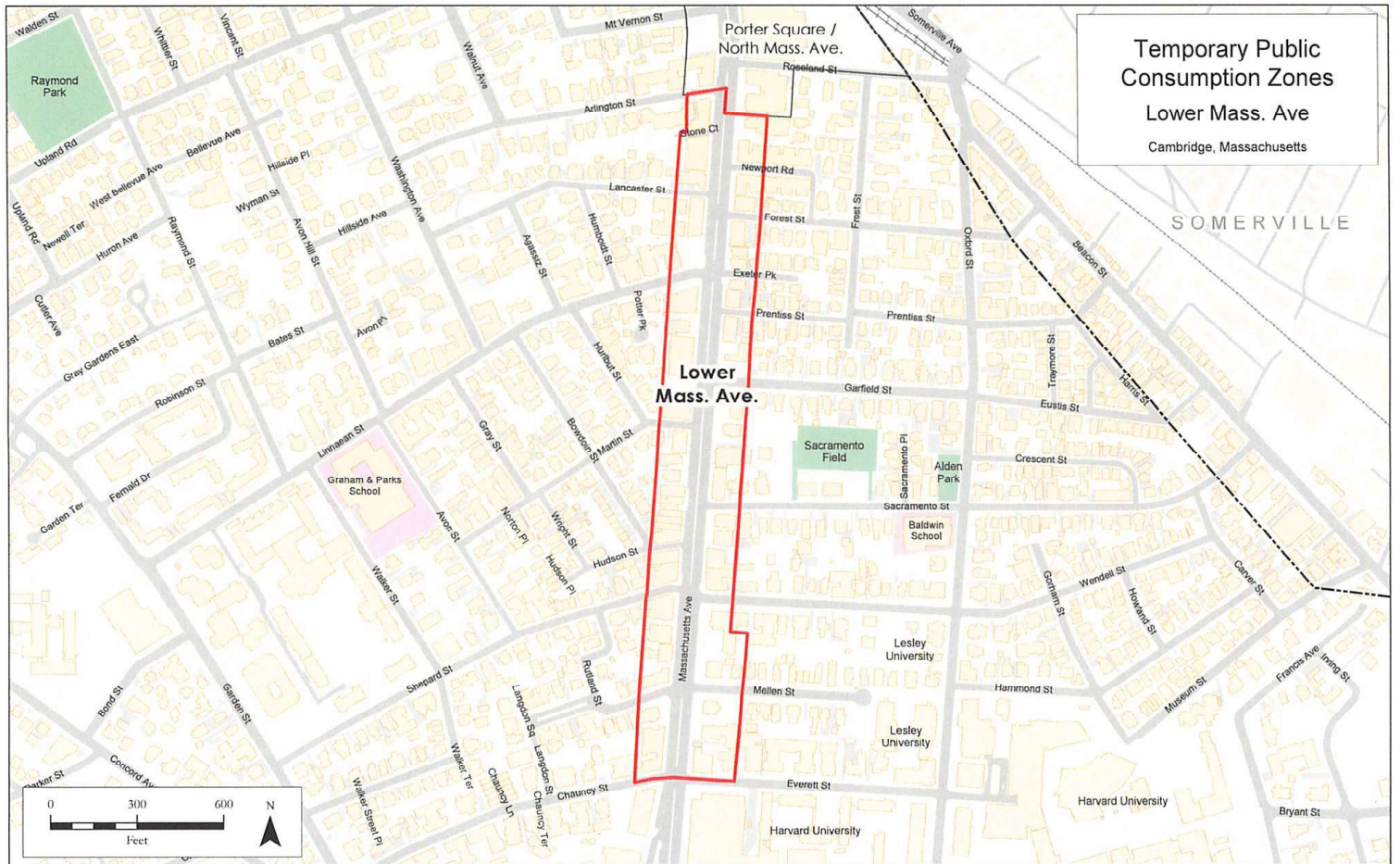


Map prepared by Brendan Monroe on June 9, 2020. GDD GIS ©\Projects\Econ_Dev\CommercialDistrictsLicenseCommission\HarvardSquare_Proposed.mxd

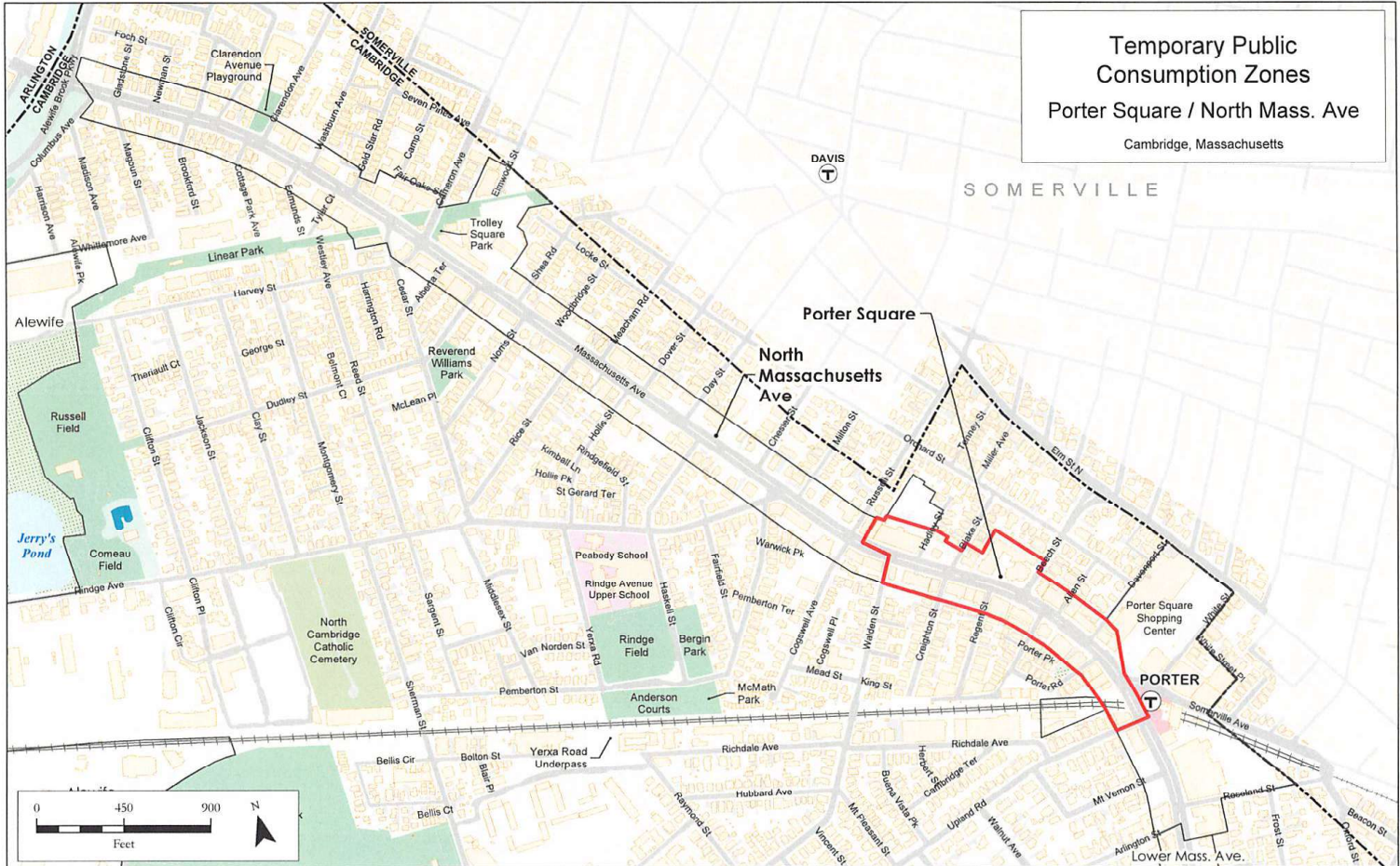
Temporary Public
Consumption Zones
Kendall Square
Cambridge, Massachusetts



Map prepared by Brendan Montore on June 9, 2026. CDD GIS C:\Projects\Econ_Dev\CommercialDistricts\LicenseCommission\KendallSquare_Proposed.mxd



Temporary Public
Consumption Zones
Porter Square / North Mass. Ave
Cambridge, Massachusetts



Map prepared by Brendan Monroe on June 10, 2026. CDD GIS C:\Projects\Econ_Dev\CommercialDistricts\LicenseCommission\PorterSquare_Proposed.mxd

Cambridge Temporary Public Consumption Zone Streets:

1. Central Square (excluding 6/13)
 - Mass Ave. from Hancock Street to Frost Street
 - Prospect from Mass to Bishop Allen
 - Columbia from Lafayette Square to Bishop Allen
2. Central Square on 6/13
 - Mass Ave from Hancock Street to Frost Street
 - Prospect from Mass to Bishop Allen
 - Columbia from Lafayette Square to Bishop Allen
 - Sydney Street Mass Ave. to Pilgrim
3. Lower Mass. Ave.
 - Mass. Ave from Everett Street to Arlington Street
4. Porter Square [this will update]
 - Upland Road to Walden Street
5. Kendall Square
 - Main Street from Ames to Broad Canal Way
 - Ames from Main to Broadway
 - Broadway from Ames Street to Third Street
 - Third Street from Main Street to Binney Street
 - Linskey way from Third to East Kendal Street
 - Athenaeum St from Third Street to East Kendal Street
 - East Kendal Street
 - Kendal Street
 - Broad Canal Way
6. Inman Square
 - Cambridge Street from Vellucci Plaza to Elm Street
 - Springfield Street from Cambridge Street to the entrance of Municipal Lot #14
 - Vellucci Plaza
7. Harvard Square
 - Mass Ave from Quincy Street to Church Street
 - Church Street
 - Palmer Street
 - Winthrop Street
 - Brattle Street from Mass Ave to Farwell Place

- **Eliot Street**
- **JFK Street from Elliot Street Mass Brattle Street**
- **Dunster Street from Mount Auburn Street to Mass Ave.**
- **Holyoke Street from Mount Auburn Street to Mass Ave.**
- **Linden Street**
- **Plympton Street from Mount Auburn to Mass Ave**
- **Bow Street**
- **Mount Auburn Elliot Street to Bow Street**