

**Woburn License Commission
Special Meeting
City Council Chamber
Thursday, October 27, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.**

Voting Members present: Chairman Thomas Skeffington, Commissioner David Gilgun
and Commissioner William Pappalardo

Also present: Mayor Scott Galvin, Woburn Police Capt. John Murphy, and City Solicitor
Ellen Callahan Doucette

Chairman Skeffington convened the meeting of the License Commission at 5:30 p.m.

- 1. Public Hearing – Alleged Violation MGL Ch. 138, Section 77 – Ceasing to conduct the licensed business, The Dog House Bar & Grill LLC, 434 Main St., Woburn, MA:** Representing the Dog House Bar & Grill LLC was Kristin Moraes, 10 Frederick Drive, Woburn, MA. Chairman Skeffington thanked City Solicitor Callahan Doucette, Capt. Murphy, the clerk, and Mayor Galvin for their guidance in this matter. He said there has been a great deal of transparency and open lines of communication. He said it is not too often the License Commission has to deal with a matter involving the U.S. Attorney’s office. He said before they address the matters before the commission, he wanted to state for the record for the people in the audience and anyone watching the Woburn Public Media Center’s broadcast that there are protocols the commission has to follow, and that is exactly what the commission doing. He said there are agreements in place with the U.S. Attorney’s office with terms and conditions that have to be adhered to by the commission. He said he understands the events that took place at the Dog House and Taste of Brazil are a hot topic. He said people come up to members of the commission and ask why the establishments aren’t closed down. He said that is not how it works. He said they have to take guidance from the federal government. He said if it was up to him, he would have closed down both establishments, but the commission can’t do that. He said he would like to read into to the record the joint response to the court order as follows: “Pursuant to the Court’s Order of October 21, 2022, the parties have conferred and agree to jointly recommend that the Court modify the operative condition of release for both defendants regarding the reopening of Taste of Brazil and The Dog House Bar & Grill (collectively, “the restaurants”) as follows: The restaurants may reopen under the interim management of Jade Archdeacon (for the Dog House Bar & Grill) and Jose Ramirez (for Taste of Brazil). On or before Friday, November 18, the businesses will engage the services of an experienced and independent General Manager to oversee the operation of both restaurants. Respectfully submitted, Rachael S. Rollins, United States Attorney.” Chairman Skeffington asked if the Dog House is open. Ms. Moraes answered affirmatively. Chairman Skeffington asked what hours the Dog House is open. Ms. Moraes said the Dog House is open from 4 p.m. – 11:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. Friday through Sunday. Chairman Skeffington asked when the Dog House opened. Ms. Moraes said the Dog House opened on Tuesday. Chairman Skeffington said the managers have been approved by the U.S. Attorney’s office. He said there are also local approvals that need to be adhered to like qualifications, the whole

nine yards. He said the License Commission is going to ask for change of manager at both restaurants. He said the deadline to file the applications is November 9, about a week before the commission's next meeting on November 17. He said the commission will need completed applications. He asked when Taste of Brazil opened. Ms. Moraes said Taste of Brazil opened yesterday. She said the hours of operation are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days. Chairman Skeffington said a change of manager application for Taste of Brazil will also have to be filed by November 9. Chairman Skeffington asked Commissioner Gilgun if he has anything to add. Commissioner Gilgun said he does not have anything to add. Chairman Skeffington asked Commissioner Pappalardo if he has anything to add. Commissioner Pappalardo said he thinks Chairman Skeffington said everything eloquently. He said the commission needs to make sure the proposed managers are qualified. City Solicitor Callahan Doucette said the agreement stipulates there are going to be two interim managers and there is supposed to be a final manager appointed by November 18. She said the independent person should be on the application. Chairman Skeffington said we all live here. He said no one likes Woburn to be on the news. He said hopefully we can all move forward. City Solicitor Callahan Doucette said the commission should make a finding there is no violation under MGL Ch. 138 Section 77 because the two establishments are open. Chairman Skeffington said he would accept a motion there is no violation of Ch. 138 Section 77 because both restaurants are open. Motion made by Commissioner Gilgun and seconded by Commissioner Pappalardo to take no action; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington referenced a report in the news media indicating a city official told someone from the Dog House or the Taste of Brazil they ought to be open within 24 hours or the city would shut them down. He said that did not come from someone on the commission. He said he does not want other people speaking for the commission. He said no one on the commission would say that ever.

2. **Public Hearing – Alleged Violation MGL Ch. 138, Section 77 – Ceasing to conduct the licensed business, Taste of Brazil Tudo Na Brasa LLC, 414 Main St., Woburn, MA:** See previous item.
3. **Any other matters that may be legally before the Commission:** None
4. **Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to adjourn; approved, 3-0.** Chairman Skeffington adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees