

Re: Article 18 – Oct. 2023 Fall Town Meeting – All-Alcohol Liquor License (Petition for Central Cafe)

A request for an All-Alcohol License (as opposed to a more restrictive Beer & Wine License) has been requested by the Owner of Central Cafe.

The Town does not currently have an available All-Alcohol Liquor License for the Select Board to potentially grant through a Public Hearing process.

Town Meeting can authorize the Select Board to file Special Legislation with the State and potentially receive access to an additional All-Alcohol License, which is the request within Article 18.

Should Town Meeting authorize the request for Special Legislation, and the All-Alcohol License were received from the State, the Select Board would then be required to post a standard Public Hearing regarding the request from Central Cafe for an upgrade from their current Beer & Wine License to an All-Alcohol License.

Please also see the attached summary of why the business owner feels this request will help them be successful in Holliston.

Travis J. Ahern

Town Administrator

My name is Ramsis and I am the owner of Central Cafe and Convenience. We are applying to upgrade our beer and wine license to a full liquor license. There are many reasons why we would like to pursue this license. At the moment, nearly every other store in town is selling with a full liquor license, which has led to an overall decrease in our beer and wine sales over the last few years, since we lack the one stop shop ability.

Additionally, many recent products are categorized as "spirits," which means we are not allowed to carry them in our store. Drinks like High Noons, which are in very high demand, contain low alcohol contents but don't fall under our license, so we often have costumers walk out empty handed because they can't purchase them from us.

We've always taken pride in being an affordable and accessible place for the people of Holliston to do their shopping. Without a liquor license, there is a lack of a competitive pricing market throughout the town for these liquor products. On average, we sell our beer and wine items at a lower price than other stores throughout the town. With access to a liquor license, we would love to continue providing additional products at a more reasonable price for our customers.

Finally, the expenses of running the store have continued to increase while our business has decreased. Not only are we missing out on the sales of liquor containing products, but with the loss of our ice cream business to the new ice cream store in the building our income has been drastically impacted. Included is a copy of our tax returns to show this significant loss over the recent years.

This store has been a part of my family for nearly 25 years, over a decade of which have included beer and wine. Throughout that time we have watched your kids grow through middle school, high school, and college. We've even seen some of you have children of your own. We care for our community and everyone that is a part of it, which is why our store has always abided by the rules and regulations of beer and wine retailers and we have never been ticketed by the ABCC for selling to minors. This store has supported my wife and I with raising our two children throughout our lives and gaining access to a full liquor license would allow us to continue our hard work for this town.

We look forward to serving you soon.

Ramsis Azir