

**City of Somerville
Licensing Commission**

SPECIAL Meeting by Remote Participation

**Thursday
March 18, 2021
5:00pm**

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Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this meeting of the Licensing Commission will be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website.

Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to view this meeting live:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2140761647584546315>.

If you wish to submit comments on any item on this agenda, you may send written comments by US mail to the Secretary of the Licensing Commission, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or by email to ljbatzek@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the meeting, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

COMMUNICATIONS

CONTINUED FROM MARCH 15, 2021

1. Thomas F. Galligani, Jr., Director of Economic Development, regarding the Somerville Covid-19 Outdoor Performance Policy:
 - On March 11, 2020, the City temporarily cancelled all City-sponsored and permitted events to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. On May 15, the cancellations were extended through the end of the 2020 calendar year. Since May, new research about COVID-19 transmission has been published that expands our understanding of risk factors, including 1) COVID-19 transmission occurs significantly less in outdoor, open-air settings compared to indoor settings and 2) community mask usage is an effective strategy for reducing transmission.
 - The artist community, small business owners, venue operators, and other stakeholders have convened over multiple working sessions to develop a plan for safely resuming outdoor activities. Safe, socially distanced outdoor events can create multiple benefits for the city, including providing residents with safer alternatives for addressing pandemic fatigue and supporting Somerville artists and small businesses.

This plan seeks to maximize these benefits while addressing risks in COVID-19 transmission by limiting activities with aerosol projection, and providing guidelines for crowd size, social distancing, and event duration.

- At this time, the City proposes the first step in the plan to include the reintroduction of limited events within our public and privately-owned spaces.

| Activity Type | Risk Level |
|--|---|
| Level 1 Performance. Arts performances with no or almost no vocal projection/ aerosol emission e.g. dance, circus, mime, instrumental musicians (excluding brass and wind) | Level 1 performances are the lowest risk since there will be very little vocal projection from the performers and audience. These performances should be the first allowed. |

All activities will be required to follow City and state health and safety guidelines, existing permitting procedures, and in addition, complete a hazard and safety plan (HASP). Performers and event organizers/ operators are responsible for ensuring compliance with mask wearing, social distancing guidelines, event duration, and other elements of the HASP plan.

General Requirements

1. Face Coverings
 - Performers must wear a mask at all times. Exceptions may be granted for specific performance types (e.g. brass and wind instrumentalists).
 - Audience members and participants must wear a mask at all times.
 - Performers and event organizers/ operators must ensure compliance with mask wearing.
2. Social Distancing
 - Performers must maintain a distance of at least 6’ from the nearest audience member. If there is more than one performer, performers must maintain a 6’ social distance from each other.
 - Performers and event organizers/ operators must ensure compliance with social distancing.
3. Crowd Size
 - Crowd size cannot exceed the City’s guidelines for outdoor events and/or venue capacity, whichever is lower.
 - Performers and event organizers/ operators must have a system for monitoring crowd size and ensuring compliance with event size limitations.

Licensing

1. **Performances and Community Markets on Public Property:** All performances will be required to submit a HASP and must follow existing licensing procedures.
 - Parks: apply to the Parks and Rec department for a performance in a park through somervillerec.com

- Non-parks: apply for a public event license (if needed) through Citizenseve
2. **Adjustment to an Entertainment License:** Organizations and businesses that are looking to add outdoor performances to their premises should apply for an amendment to their existing license in Citizenseve. In addition, businesses must submit a HASP.