

**City of Malden  
Massachusetts  
215 Pleasant Street, Suite 424  
Malden, MA 02148  
Malden Licensing Board**



Lee A. Kinnon, Chairman

Andrew Zeiberg, Member  
Frances Lin, Member

Diane M. Anthony, Clerk

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**MINUTES OF MEETING  
MALDEN LICENSING BOARD  
September 21, 2021**

Lee A. Kinnon, Chairman  
Andrew Zeiberg, Board Member  
Frances Lin, Member  
Kathryn M. Fallon, City Solicitor  
Alicia McNeil, Assistant City Solicitor  
Diane M. Anthony, Clerk  
Captain Marc Gatcomb, Police Liaison

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Lee Kinnon in person at 6:00 p.m.

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Motion by Andrew Zeiberg to approve the Minutes from August 12, 2021, meeting of the Malden Licensing Board

Seconded by Frances Lin

Motion passed.

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The next item on the agenda is the application for a change of manager for The Ethiopian Restaurant, 1 Highland Avenue. Present and representing the petitioner were Attorney Kenneth Mazonson together with the applicant, Abyot Asamu of Malden.

Attorney Mazonson stated that Mr. Asamu has been in place as bar manager and has worked side by side with Sammy who trained him. Abyot's wife is one of the three members who own and opened the restaurant in 2018. Mrs. Asamu is the cook and waitress who is also TIPS certified. Abyot works 40 hours a week as a parking garage attendant and supervisor. He leaves his job at 2pm and gets to the restaurant at 2:30 and stays there until closing. Attorney Mazonson said he will be working 40 hours per week at the restaurant and 40 hours a week at his parking job. Attorney Mazonson also explained that Abyot shadowed Sami who was an LLC member and he has also taken online courses. This business was able to hold on through the pandemic and they have renegotiated their lease and are current in all taxes. Mr. and Mr. Asamu have lived in Malden for years and they want to make this work.

Chairman Kinnon opened the hearing to Board Members for questions.

Board Member, Frances Lin states that this Board is very concerned about service of alcohol to minors and asked Mr. Asamu if he knew the 6 forms of acceptable identification. Mr. Asamu did state the 6 forms of acceptable identification including Massachusetts license, passport, military identification. Ms. Lin asked where they purchased their alcohol from and Mr. Asamu said from Horizon or Martignetti's who are wholesalers. Ms. Lin asked what time the restaurant closed and Mr. Asamu Sunday to Friday at 10pm and Saturday at midnight. Ms. Lin asked about his full-time work at the parking garage and hours at the restaurant. Mr. Asamu said since he came to the United States he has always worked up to 80 hours per week.

Board Member Andrew Zeiberg asked about Mr. Asamu's hours at the parking garage. He asked what time the restaurant opens. Mr. Asamu said they open at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Zeiberg asked who would be in charge until Mr. Asamu got there and he responded that his wife will be in charge. She is also TIPS certified to serve alcohol and they also employ one additional employee on the weekend who is TIPS certified. Mr. Asamu said he is the bartender plus the additional worker on the weekends. Mr. Zeiberg asked if this was his first time as a manager and who was the manager before him. Mr. Asamu said that he shadowed Sami who was one of the co-owners and bar manager. Sami was also the bar manager and co-owner of the restaurant Habesha before he sold it. Sami stayed at The Ethiopian Restaurant to help him learn the ropes.

Chairman Kinnon asked Mr. Asamu if the third person serving is TIPS certified. He understands Mr. Asamu and his wife are TIPS trained but he wants to make sure the third person who works weekends is also TIPS trained. Attorney Mazonson presented the TIPS certificate to the Board. Mr. Kinnon also clarified last call for Mr. Asamu. He asked Mr. Asamu to remember that last call is always 45 minutes before closing and the last drink must be served 30 minutes before closing. In other words, if you close at midnight, you must announce last call at 11:15p.m. and serve the last drink before 11:30 p.m. and close at midnight.

Chairman Kinnon asked if there was anyone present in favor of this petition – With no response that portion of the hearing was closed.

Chairman Kinnon asked if there was anyone present in opposition of this petition – With no response that portion of the hearing was closed.

Motion by Andrew Zeiberg to approve the Change of Manager to Abyot Asamu – Seconded by Frances Lin.

Motion passed.

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Chairman Kinnon asked Captain Gatcomb if he had anything to report. Captain Gatcomb responded that all was quiet.

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Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on October 19, 2021 in person at City Hall, Room 108.

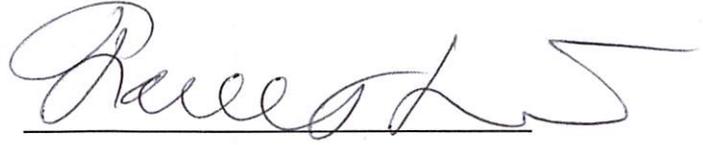
Submitted by:

Diane M. Anthony, Clerk  
Malden Licensing Board

Minutes Approved by:



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Raeel J.', written over a horizontal line.

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