

Town of Franklin

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OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

May 12, 2020

Trish Lang Farnsworth
Lawson & Weitzen LLP
88 Black Falcon Avenue, Suite 345
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Ms. Farnsworth:

On behalf of the Town Council, I am writing to provide a statement of reasons in response to the Section 12 All Alcohol license denial that occurred at the May 6, 2020 public hearing. Here is a brief summary of the reasons for denial based upon the comments from the four members of the Council who voted in the negatives:

- Members expressed concern about alcohol being served on a college campus, where the majority of students are underage.
- Members expressed concern regarding student safety, notably at the crosswalk on West Central Street near the dorms, in the event a student was inebriated.
- Members expressed concern of Dean's oversight through its in-house security when actual operation would be by college's outside food service contractor Sodexo.
- Members expressed opinions that there are already an adequate number of existing alcoholic licenses in downtown Franklin and surrounding areas.
- Members expressed concern for the impact on small businesses, notably restaurants, in downtown Franklin that this license may contribute to increased difficult times, with less business from the Dean College community; members also expressed concern this would have a negative revenue impact on the town from less local meals taxes.

I believe this is a fair summary of the concerns raised by members who voted in the negative during the public hearing for this license, which stretched over two meetings and over two hours of deliberation.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Mercer, Chair
Franklin Town Council

Cc: Ralph Sacramone, Executive Director of the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission