

PUBLIC EVENT/SPECIAL ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION

City of Somerville, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Application #: PEL25-000153

File #: 21-013193

Event Name: 20th HONK! Festival

Business Name: HONK! Festival

Location: CITYWIDE

Application Type: Public Event License

APPLICANT

Company Name:

Contact Name: Matthew Taylor

Business Address:

Home Address:

16 Eustis St, Apt 3

Cambridge, MA 02140

Work Phone:

Home Phone:

Email: mewtaylor@gmail.com

Describe any accessibility features available to attendees/participants: Access to public sidewalks

Estimated maximum attendance at one time : 5000

Estimated total number of people attending: 10000

Estimated total number of Somerville residents attending : 4000

Maximum number of attendees you will accommodate: 10000

Attendee fees or suggested donations : None

Will this event be open to the public?: Yes

Describe your outreach/publicity: Social media, press releases, posters around the community

Will food be served?: No

Will a grill/open-flame device be used? : No

Will any streets be blocked? : Yes

If yes, describe:: Saturday - close off Elm St. from Davis Square to Cutter Ave. 11:00 am to 9:00 pm, Chester St from Herbert to Elm 11am to 8:00 pm, Dover St. from Davis Square to Flatbread Pizza. Sunday parade - Herbert St. lot needs to be closed 8:00 am to 1:00pm, at 10:00 am close Day St from Orchard St to Elm St, Bowers St, Elm St, Beach St, Holland St eastbound from Buena Vista Rd to College Ave. During the lantern parades, Friday 7:30 to 8:30, along parade routes the bands and families with lanterns will fill the sidewalks. On Sunday during the parade, sidewalks are crowded with spectators.

Road to be closed: Elm Street, Chester Street

Cross street where road closure will start: Davis Square

Cross street where road closure will end: Cutter Ave

Will any sidewalks be blocked? : No

Will any public parks be used? : Yes

If yes, name of park(s) : Kenny Park, Hodgkins Park

Has this event occurred in the last two years? : Yes

If yes, prior dates : 10/4/2024 - 10/6/2024, 10/6/2023 - 10/8/2023

Police Detail : Yes

If yes, describe:: Saturday patrols during festival in Davis Square 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Sunday two police details 11:00 to 1:00 pm

Parking for Attendees : No

Restrooms : Yes

If yes, please describe the restrooms being provided, and if you are providing portable toilets, state how they will be delivered and removed:: The city will provide porta-potties on Saturday at Seven Hills and at Kenney park from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Liability Insurance : Yes

If yes, describe:: Policy from Wedgwood-Crane & Connolly Insurance of Somerville

of days: 3

Does this event occupy a public space or significantly affect nearby residents?: Yes

Are you the party applying for the Public Event License?: Yes

Describe the location in detail: Friday night Lantern Parade: Hodgkin's Park and sidewalk procession. Saturday Festival at Seven Hills Park, Statue Park, Kenney Park, Elm St. from Dover St. to Cutter Ave., Chester St. from Elm St. to Herbert St., Summer St, Dilboy side only from Elm St. to Windom St., Dover St from Davis Square to Flatbread Pizza. Sunday Parade Route: Herbert St Parking lot, Day St from Orchard St to to Elm St., Bower Ave, Elm St. and Beech St. eastbound from Buena Visa Rd to College Ave.

In the last 5 years, have you been found guilty, liable, or responsible, in any judicial or administrative proceeding, for any violation of the City Wage Theft Ordinance or any State or Federal laws or regulations regulating the payment of wages? [City Wage Theft Ordinance](#): No

Date: 10/10/2025

Event Setup Begins: 02:00 PM

Start Time: 04:00 PM

End Time: 09:00 PM

Event Cleanup Ends: 09:30 PM

Do You Have a Proposed Rain Date for Your Public Event?: No

of Additional Dates for Public Events at This Location (if applicable): 2

Date: 10/11/2025

Start Time: 10:00 AM

End Time: 10:00 PM

Date: 10/12/2025

Start Time: 10:00 AM

End Time: 02:00 PM

Organization name; if none, your name: HONK! Festival

Describe any social or cultural benefits of this event for Somerville residents : This event brings brass bands of all kinds from across the country to Davis, and artists who engage with the community in collaborative projects. These artists highlight the cultural diversity of music in Somerville and beyond, and bring joy to our residents.

Describe any financial benefits of this event for Somerville businesses or organizations: The festival brings hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of patrons to Davis square throughout the day, where they often purchase food and other things from local businesses in the square.

What is the budget for this event?: 80000.00

Complete Mailing Address : 100 Jackson Street Cambridge, MA 02140

Contact name for follow-up questions (Will be available to the public): Trudi Cohen

Email: trudico@gmail.com

Phone (Will be available to the public): 781-285-8639

Event Name : 20th HONK! Festival

Describe the Event: 30 activist street bands (all acoustic, mostly brass) from Somerville, across North America, Brazil and Germany perform at a family lantern parade Friday evening, musical performances by all bands in Davis Square and interactive art activities on Elm St. on Saturday, and at a big parade on Sunday early afternoon.

Describe any Entertainment at the Event (if none, type None): Musical performances by 30 bands, art developed by local artists.

Describe any tents, inflatables, or other temporary structures to be used (if none, type None): Temporary tents along Elm street for artists in case of rain.

Approval Conditions:

Reviewer: Kevin Roche, Engineering, Approved with Conditions

1. Approved pending IAP review.

Reviewer: Charles Breen, Fire Prevention, Approved with Conditions

1. Will require fire details as per past events.

Reviewer: Mackenzie Richardson, Police, Approved with Conditions

1. Contact the Detail office at 617-625-1600 x7266 to set up police details for the weekend events

Reviewer: CS Mayor, Mayor's Office, Approved

Reviewer: Albert Bargoot, ISD Building, Approved

Reviewer: CS Traffic and Parking, Traffic and Parking, Approved

Reviewer: Eric Weisman, Public Works, Approved

Reviewer: Jesse Moos, Engineering, Complete

Reviewer: Yianny Tsirigotis, Recreation, Approved

Reviewer: Kimberly M. Wells, City Clerk, Approved