

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission 95 Fourth Street, Suite 3 Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150-2358

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION

September 18, 2025

WHITE LION AMHERST LLC 24 NORTH PLEASANT STREET AMHERST, MA 01002 LICENSE#: 07643-PP-0024

VIOLATION DATE: 11/01/2024

HEARD: 2/04/2025

After a hearing on February 4, 2025, the Commission finds White Lion Amherst LLC violated 204 CMR 2.05 (2) Permitting an illegality on the licensed premises, to wit: M.G.L. Ch. 138, § 34C – Possession of an alcoholic beverage by a person under twenty-one (21) years of age (4 Counts).

The Commission SUSPENDS the license for a period of four (4) days of which two (2) days will be served and two (2) days will be held in abeyance for a period of two (2) years provided no further violations of Chapter 138 or Commission Regulations are found by this Commission.

The suspension shall commence on Monday, November 3, 2025, and terminate on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. The license will be delivered to the Local Licensing Board or its designee on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. It will be returned to the licensee on November 5, 2025.

You are advised that pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 138 § 23, you may petition the Commission to accept an offer in compromise in lieu of suspension within twenty (20) calendar days following such notice of such suspension. If accepted, you may pay a fine using the enclosed form which must be signed by the Licensee and a Massachusetts Licensed Accountant.

You are advised that you have the right to appeal this decision under M.G.L. c. 30A to Superior Court within thirty (30) days upon receipt of this notice.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION

Jean M. Lorizio Chairman

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2024-000209-ad-enf

cc: Local Licensing Board
Frederick G. Mahony, Chief Investigator
Nicole Smith, Investigator
Robert Gardner, Investigator
Katelyn Quinn, Investigator
Nicole Terasconi, Investigator
Christopher Temple, Investigator
Nicholas Velez, Investigator
Administration, File



Commonwealth of Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission 95 Fourth Street, Suite 3 Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150-2358

DECISION

WHITE LION AMHERST LLC 24 NORTH PLEASANT STREET AMHERST, MA 01002 LICENSE#: 07643-PP-0024

VIOLATION DATE: 11/01/2024

HEARD: 2/04/2025

White Lion Amherst LLC ("Licensee") holds a farmer brewery alcohol license issued pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138, § 19C. The Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission ("ABCC" or "Commission") held a remote hearing via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, regarding an alleged violation of 204 CMR 2.05(2) Permitting an illegality on the licensed premises, to wit: Ch. 138 § 34C - Possession of an alcoholic beverage by a person under twenty-one (21) years of age (4 Counts). Prior to the commencement of the hearing, the Licensee stipulated to the facts in Investigator Smith's Report.

The following documents are in evidence:

- 1. Investigative Report of N. Smith;
- 2. ABCC Licensing Authority Certification, New License Approved 7/10/2023;
- 3. Licensee's Stipulation of Facts.
- A. Licensee's Letter to Police Chief, Interim Fire Chief and Licensing Coordinator, 11/4/2024;
- B. Floor Plan.

There is one (1) audio recording of this hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On Friday, November 1, 2024, at approximately 10:00 p.m., Special Investigators Gardner, Quinn, Terasconi, Temple, Velez, and Smith ("Investigators") conducted an inspection of White Lion Amherst LLC d/b/a The White Lion ("Licensee") to address a complaint filed with this Commission.
- 2. Investigators Smith and Terasconi observed a youthful appearing female seated at a table and in possession of what appeared to be an alcoholic beverage. Investigators identified themselves and requested proof of legal age to possess an alcoholic beverage.

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- 3. Underage #1, actual date of birth 8/21/2004 (age 20), provided to Investigators her true Massachusetts driver's license.
- 4. Investigators Gardner and Velez observed a youthful appearing female in possession of what appeared to be an alcoholic beverage. Investigators identified themselves and requested proof of legal age to possess an alcoholic beverage.
- 5. Underage #2, actual date of birth 10/10/2005 (age 19), was in possession of a mojito mixed drink. She presented to Investigators a fraudulent New Hampshire driver's license bearing her name but a different birth date.
- Investigators Quinn and Temple observed two youthful appearing females in possession of
 what appeared to be alcoholic beverages. Investigators identified themselves and requested
 proof of legal age to possess alcoholic beverages.
- 7. Underage #3, actual date of birth 11/22/2003 (age 20), was in possession of a sour apple martini mixed drink. She presented to Investigators her true Pakistan identification card.
- 8. Underage #4, actual date of birth 7/29/2004 (age 20), was in possession of an apple martini mixed drink. She presented to Investigators a fraudulent New Jersey driver's license bearing her name but a different birth date.
- 9. Investigators identified themselves to Ray Berry, Manager and Licensee, informed him of the violations and advised him that a report would be submitted to the Chief Investigator for further review.
- 10. Mr. Berry appeared at the Commission hearing and testified the establishment was fully staffed on the night of the inspection, including 5 security personnel who utilized an identification scanner. He stated that this was one of their 1st 18+ nights where they checked identification and provided wristbands to those over the age of 21. He testified that staff continuously monitored the floor but acknowledged a weakness in that they allowed the underage patrons to mingle with those over the age of 21. Mr. Berry testified they have since corrected that and keep the two age groups separated.
- 11. The Licensee has held a license under M.G.L. c. 138, § 19C since 2023 with no prior violations.

CONCLUSION

Based on the evidence, the Commission finds the Licensee violated 204 CMR 2.05(2) Permitting an illegality on the licensed premises, to wit: Ch. 138 § 34C - Possession of an alcoholic beverage by a person under twenty-one (21) years of age (4 Counts). Therefore, the Commission SUSPENDS the license for a period of four (4) days of which two (2) days will be served and two (2) days will be held in abeyance for a period of two (2) years provided no further violations of Chapter 138 or Commission Regulations are found by this Commission.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION

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Jean M. Lorizio, Chairman	Har III Sundan	
Crystal Matthews, Commissioner	Cycle Matthe	
Deborah Baglio, Commissioner	Deboran a Baglio	

Dated: September 18, 2025

You have the right to appeal this decision to the Superior Courts under the provisions of Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws within thirty (30) days of receipt of this decision.

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