



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
LICENSING COMMISSION  
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**SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION ADVISORY REGARDING DRINK SPIKING**

**Issued: December 8, 2022**

The Somerville Licensing Commission is issuing this advisory as a reminder to all licensees of the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission Advisory (ABCC) regarding Non-Consensual Drugging occurring at Bars, Clubs, and other Licensed Premises.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION ADVISORY REGARDING RECENT NEWS ABOUT NON-CONSENSUAL DRUGGING  
OCCURRING AT BARS, CLUBS, AND OTHER LICENSED PREMISES**

The ABCC is aware of local, national, and international news reports of an increase in illicit, non-consensual drugging occurring at bars, nightclubs, and other nightlife venues. All § 12 Licensees should alert employees and patrons about the increase in predatory behavior and are advised to be vigilant in monitoring activity within their establishments. Licensees are encouraged to have an active security plan in place, in which all employees are trained.

Licensees are reminded of the following:

- There is a duty to prevent foreseeable harm to patrons and others.
- A Licensee's duty to protect patrons may be triggered when the conduct of another patron puts the Licensee or its employees on notice that harm is imminent.
- A Licensee may discharge its duty to protect patrons by taking steps to prevent the harm, such as calling the police.
- It is the responsibility of each licensee to exercise close supervision of its premises to ensure compliance with the law.
- Licensees are required to cooperate in investigations by police and ABCC Investigators.

As always, all licensees must ensure they comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that sales of alcoholic beverages take place only as authorized by federal, state, and local law.

(Issued 12/3/2021)

(Reissued by the Somerville Licensing Commission 12/8/22)

Claims of ignorance of the law or the Advisory are not a defense.

Any questions should be directed to the Commission's Executive Secretary, Lori Jean Batzek at (617) 625-6600 x 4100 or [licensing@somervillema.gov](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov).

For the Commission,

Joseph P. Lynch, Jr., Chair  
Christopher Allen  
Jacques Thomas, Jr.