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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

City orders Russian bar in Allston to close for 1 day for illegally providing bottle service

Posted by Matt Rocheleau April 24, 2013 11:33 AM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

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City officials have ordered a Russian bar and restaurant in Allston to close for one day for illegally providing bottle service and using a new nightclub-style room in February, despite being warned days earlier by the chair of the city's licensing board not to do so.

Crystal Restaurant, which is located at the corner of Linden and Cambridge streets and run by the Russian Benevolent Society, went before the city's licensing board [earlier this month](#) to answer to a citation issued by police.

Two days after the hearing, the licensing board handed down the one-day suspension punishment.

The licensing board will select a suspension date and notify the establishment via a written letter that is expected to be sent between four and six weeks before that chosen date, city officials said. The business can appeal the date that is chosen.

Owners of the establishment [have also agreed](#) to consider changing the name and marketing of a recent addition to their establishment – where the alleged

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violation occurred – after neighbors raised concern that the new venue’s portrayal might attract an unwanted crowd.

To go with that new addition, which is called “Garage Lounge Boston,” the establishment plans to ask the city’s zoning board to increase its indoor capacity from 320 to 360 and to add a seasonal patio with a 90-person capacity.

The city’s board of appeals is scheduled to hear the bar’s expansion request at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7 in room 801 of City Hall. The proposal may require approval from other city boards and departments, officials said.

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