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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

## Russian bar, restaurant in Allston again proposes capacity increase, other changes

Posted by Matt Rocheleau February 6, 2014 02:09 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Boston.com Staff

A Russian bar and restaurant in Allston has renewed its quest to increase its capacity and change other aspects of how it functions, several months after neighbors voiced concerns about a previous proposal.

The Crystal Restaurant at the corner of Linden and Cambridge streets has applied for city permission to: extend its operating hours from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m.; increase its capacity from 214 to 440 people; host "floor shows consisting of two dancers;" display televisions and play background music on an outdoor seasonal patio; and name a newly-renovated space "Garage Room," [city records show](#).

Those requests are scheduled to go before the Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing at a hearing on Monday, Feb. 10 at 10:15 a.m. in City Hall room 801, according to an agenda for the city office.

The proposed capacity increase is similar to what the establishment [proposed last spring](#). At that time, the owners said they were not seeking to extend the business' hours past 1 a.m.

Neighbors had previously objected to parts of the previous proposal, including plans to name a newly-renovated space "Garage Lounge Boston." Some worried that the new venue's portrayal might attract an unwanted crowd.

Owners vowed to residents at the time that they were not trying to create another college bar or a party or nightclub-type atmosphere.

The owners said previously that the location would be primarily used for banquets, dinners, weddings, anniversaries and family events the restaurant has traditionally hosted over the years. The establishment said last spring it planned to continue to cater to "upscale clientele," enforcing a dress code and selling food and drinks at "high-end" prices.

The bar and restaurant owned by the Russian Benevolent Society is located in a two-building complex at 14-20 Linden St. The former warehouses also include offices rented to various businesses, a fitness center, bakery, an adult daycare facility and an art studios.

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