



City of Boston  
Mayor Michelle Wu  
Licensing Board

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Executive Secretary:  
Daniel R. Green

**THE LICENSING BOARD FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON'S ADVISORY  
REGARDING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PACKAGE STORES**

Issued: June 17, 2026

The primary goal of the Licensing Board for the City of Boston (the "Board") is to ensure the safety and security of patrons at all of our licensed premises. During this summer of increased activity across Boston, the Board finds it necessary to remind the owners and operators of package stores of certain rules and regulations intended to preserve public safety and order.

This summer presents an extraordinary opportunity to showcase Boston on a global stage as the city welcomes residents and visitors to a wide range of cultural, sporting, and entertainment events. While this is an exciting time for the city, visitors may not be familiar with Boston's rules prohibiting the public consumption of alcohol. The Board encourages all licensees to help educate patrons and promote responsible enjoyment of the city's summer activities.

1. The City of Boston does not allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages on public ways without explicit permission. This includes streets, sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, or any other public space under the jurisdiction of the City, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any of their respective agencies or subdivisions.
2. It is the responsibility of each package store licensee to ensure that patrons are not drinking alcoholic beverages outside of their licensed premises. You must ensure that you are adequately staffed to monitor the outside of your premise and disperse loiterers as necessary.
3. The Board recommends that all package store licensees post clear signage, both inside and outside, reminding patrons that **public drinking is not allowed in Boston** per Boston Municipal Code 16-12.28.
4. Package store licensees must continue to follow all other rules and regulations of the Board and all provisions of M.G.L. ch. 138. In particular, the Board reminds package store licensees to be vigilant in verifying the age of patrons and to refuse to sell alcoholic beverages to any patrons who are underage or who exhibit signs of intoxication.

**Claims of ignorance of the law, the Board's Rules and Regulations, or this Advisory are not a defense.**

Any questions should be directed to the Board's Executive Secretary, Daniel R. Green, Esq., who can be reached at (617) 635-4170 or [licensingboard@boston.gov](mailto:licensingboard@boston.gov).

For the Board,

*Daniel R. Green*

Daniel R. Green, Esq.  
Executive Secretary