

November 18, 2020

Natick Select Board Natick Town Hall 13 E. Central St. Natick, MA 01760

Re: Licensing and Parking Fees

Dear Natick Select Board,

The Natick Center Associates' Board of Directors met today and discussed the alternatives (as posted on the Town's website) for liquor fees and merchant/employee parking passes.

We voted unanimously to recommend for your consideration:

- Reducing the liquor licensing fees for restaurants/performance venues by 50% and establishing a staggered (quarterly or semi-annual) payment schedule
- Reducing the merchant/employee parking passes by 25%

Our discussion focused on:

- Liquor Licenses No doubt that COVID-19 has severely impacted restaurants, and the future, at this point, is difficult to predict. Revenues are down, expenses are up, and survival is top-of-mind. A reduction in the "fixed cost" of the liquor license would be a welcomed bit of news for struggling business owners. Timing on renewals is also a factor. Restaurants are coming into a time when cash flow can be problematic. Creating a payment schedule, maybe quarterly, would undoubtedly help in budgeting. Both these measures would encourage restaurants in Natick to keep the doors open and weather the pandemic.
- Parking Passes Usage of parking passes has been dramatically reduced with business shut-downs, staggered employee scheduling, and work-from-home alternatives. The current price of the passes is causing businesses and individual employees to reconsider renewal. A reduction in the passes' cost will encourage renewals and reinforce the importance of the role that the passes play in Natick's broader parking management plan.

Athena Pandolf and Steve Levinsky will be attending tonight's discussion and will be happy to answer any questions or provide any additional information.

Sincerely

Arthur B. Fair, III, President Natick Center Associates