

Maverick Central Neighborhood Association
www.maverickcentral.org

Licensing Board

1 City Hall Square
Room 809
Boston, MA 02201-2035

Opposition to MIDA Tavernetta Liquor License

Dear Members of the Licensing Board,

On behalf of the Maverick Central Neighborhood Association and concerned residents of East Boston, we respectfully oppose the granting of a liquor license to *Tavernetta by MIDA*, located at 45 Lewis Street. While we welcome responsible dining establishments that add value to our community, this application does not meet that standard.

Our concern is not with growth or new businesses, but with accountability. Chef Douglas Williams and his team have operated MIDA in East Boston for more than three years. *Tavernetta* would be their second restaurant in the neighborhood. Yet during this time, ownership has shown little evidence of meaningful community investment or engagement. Despite saying otherwise.

We have not seen participation in neighborhood clean-ups, sponsorship of local events, or contributions to the vitality of the community. Several youth sports organizations, which rely on small local sponsorships to provide safe play spaces, uniforms, and equipment, report that their repeated requests for support were declined. These modest opportunities to give back, especially when the business has benefited from neighborhood patronage, have gone unfulfilled.

A liquor license is a privilege, not a right. It should be awarded to businesses that demonstrate they are good neighbors and active partners in building a stronger community. To date, MIDA has not met that obligation.

For these reasons, we urge the Board to deny this application unless and until the ownership presents a clear, measurable plan for community support. To grant a license without such commitment risks setting a precedent that diminishes the role of the license as a tool for fostering civic responsibility and continues positioning our community as simply a neighborhood that can be used for gains, not developed for equitable gains.

Thank you for your attention and for your ongoing efforts to balance business development with the quality of life of Boston's neighborhoods.

Respectfully,
Board Members
Maverick Central Neighborhood Association