

Good Evening –

I am Mayor Jen Grigoraitis, and I am here tonight to offer my full support for the Farmer Series Pouring Permit presently before the commission.

I want to thank our commissioners for their service to the community, and the many residents who have offered their feedback, in public comments and through many emails, on how they want our shared community to move forward.

I have been involved in the efforts to add a brewery to Melrose for over two years, first as the Ward 6 Councilor and now as the mayor. While on the Council, I had the honor of representing a significant portion of Melrose's commercial sector and countless small business owners with brick-and-mortar locations Downtown. I voted in support of the zoning and regulatory changes necessary to get us to this moment, and I am excited for what comes next.

In listening to our business owners, and in observing the economic success of our neighboring communities, it's clear that opening a brewery in Melrose will drive much-needed foot traffic to our present businesses.

Neighboring Cities that have opened a brewery – Everett, Malden, Medford, Woburn, Somerville – have seen invigorated commerce among their residents and a surge of spend-happy visitors in their downtowns. They have reaped the economic benefits of taking a chance on a new type of business.

This is what I want for Melrose – to give our residents the opportunity to spend every dollar they can within our community.

I want us to be economic competitors with our neighbors; I want us to make decisions that benefit our existing business owners; and I want us to attract a diverse business inventory that revitalizes our commercial district. To do that, we have to say yes to a new type of business.

So, I thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important application.

My administration is ready and willing to work with Hannah's Brewery to ensure a successful opening and looks forward to working together to ensure smooth operations.