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April 10, 2023

Via email: [DEP.Waterways@state.ma.us](mailto:DEP.Waterways@state.ma.us)

MassDEP-BWR Waterways Regulation Program

Attn: Susan You  
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Chapter 91 License Application for Pier 1 - Tallship Caledonia at Eastie Landing

Dear Ms. You,

Boston Harbor Now respectfully submits the following comments on the *Pier 1 - Tallship Caledonia at Eastie Landing Chapter 91 License Application* prepared by Tallship Restaurant LLC. Our organization has followed this project and most recently attended the April 21, 2023, Chapter 91 License hearing held by MassDEP Waterways Regulation Program.

As longtime stewards of the Boston Harborwalk, Boston Harbor Now is committed to ensuring that the waterfront we build today is designed for a more resilient and inclusive future. We use the term “Harborwalk 2.0” to capture the aspirations of this work to ensure the waterfront is accessible and welcoming, is prepared for the coastal impacts of climate change, and centers equity and inclusion in the development of its design, construction, and programming. An accessible waterfront should have both linear and lateral connections between the city and the water, as well as numerous activation strategies to serve all Bostonians. A resilient waterfront includes a variety of climate adaptation strategies to protect and serve Boston at a district scale. To center equity in waterfront design is to focus on strategies that make the waterfront feel safe and inclusive through lighting, signage (preferably multi-lingual), full ADA accommodations, and the elimination of features that make users feel unwelcome or excluded.

Since its debut at Pier 1, the Tallship has provided a new form of waterfront activation previously unseen in Boston—an activated pier with a floating venue attached. From the outset, the proponent has worked with Massport, elected officials, and community residents to activate the site and transform a fenced off pier into an increasingly welcoming destination. We have been particularly impressed by the proponent’s commitment to offering water shuttle services at no cost between the waterfront venues that they operate in Charlestown, East Boston, and soon the Seaport. By responding to the community's needs, they have added new programming catered towards the local neighborhood and created a Tall Ship Clean Up Crew to remove trash



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and debris from the area. The most significant and positive change occurred when the proponent changed their drink ticketing policy at the behest of the community, switching from a system that prohibited patrons under the age of 21 from using the space to creating a more inclusive process that helps identify patrons legally allowed to drink through wrist bands. The proponent's efforts have resulted in an inclusive, accessible, and attractive waterfront site and increased access to what had previously been a fenced off area that is now open to all members of the public during operating hours. We support the proponent's 5-year license application for these reasons and are excited to see how they will expand upon their existing activation.

Upon receiving their Chapter 91 license, the proponent will be able to extend their services from a 6-month term for the summer season to continuous year-round operation. With the guarantee of an expanded operation period, we hope to see additional investment in waterfront activation to ensure that the area remains vibrant throughout the year. The proponent should be prepared to host programming that can suit a variety of weather conditions and outfit their site with infrastructure that can support these programs. This may require additional shelter from the elements and heating sources to create a comfortable environment for visitors. Regardless of what form wintertime activation takes, we hope that offseason activation continues to be as thoughtful and inclusive as the proponent's current offerings.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Chapter 91 License Application and look forward to reviewing the future Draft Management Plan(s). The proponent has responded well to prior feedback; we look forward to an ongoing dialogue. We would be happy to speak with you further if there are additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Abbott".

Kathy Abbott  
President and CEO  
Boston Harbor Now