



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2020

Media Contact:

Faarooq Sahabdeen

617-858-5748

bostononhospitalitycoalition@gmail.com

THE END IS NEAR FOR BOSTON'S BLACK-OWNED BARS

With the Future of Boston's Black-Owned Bars and Restaurants in Peril, a Coalition of Black Hospitality Business Owners Create an Emergency Fund to Delay What May be Inevitable.

BOSTON, MA – . The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted black communities at a disproportionate rate affecting both our health and economic prosperity while exposing the vast inequalities and systems that allow it. Particularly vulnerable are Boston's black-owned bars and restaurants, all of which have lost more than 90% of their revenue amidst the COVID-19 crisis.

In partnership with the NAACP Boston Branch, a working group of five business owners operating under the "Boston Black Hospitality Coalition", have penned a letter outlining the State of Boston's Black-Owned Bars which includes a call to action for our Elected Officials, Private & Public Institutions, Nonprofit Organizations, and Neighborhood Residents.

Of the data, these stand out –

- 83% of these businesses are located in Roxbury;
- 75% of the customer base are people of color ("POC");
- 88% of the workforce, primarily POC, were laid off during this crisis, affecting 116 households;
- \$1.2 million dollars of estimated revenues was lost by the businesses March, April, and May 2020
- 100% of the businesses will have to consider closing doors for good if the status quo continues. ¹

The statement outlines alarming statistics that paint a picture of devastation for our neighborhood businesses. We know from previous reports that Black Bostonians already operate at a quarter of a million-dollar deficit but, this is further compounded by their overrepresentation in vulnerable sectors such as leisure, hospitality, transportation, and retail. The data is clear, Black and minority-owned businesses that continue to operate during this recession are about 60% less likely than their peers to receive 100% of the financing needed to sustain their business.

"We are 5 of 8 of 1200+[Boston liquor licenses]. With those numbers, we were never in a place to make it. Sad part is, this is not just a Boston or Industry problem."

– RC Smith, Urban Food and Beverage, Proprietor

We are at a critical juncture - one that decides the survival of our businesses and the livelihood of our neighborhoods. Our businesses represent the rich history of Black Boston and our future successes. Simply put – Black-Owned Bars and Restaurants will die without help.

ABOUT THE BOSTON BLACK HOSPITALITY COALITION:

The Boston Black Hospitality Coalition (BBHC) was created out of the necessity to have a focused initiative that prioritizes ensuring the future of Boston's Black-owned hospitality community. Ultimately preserving a 180+ year legacy in Boston's black communities. The coalition is comprised of five of Boston's only **eight** black liquor licensed restaurants and bars in the city: Darryl's Corner Bar & Kitchen, District 7 Tavern, Savor Restaurant & Lounge, Soleil Restaurant & Catering, and Wally's Jazz Café.

¹ This data was provided by the members of the Boston Black Hospitality Coalition identified in the 'about' section.