



## MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

City of Northampton

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**May 26, 2023**

### **Statement from Mayor Sciarra About Bombyx Reopening**

Bombyx, located at 130 Pine Street in Florence, has committed to collaborating closely with the Building Department to ensure full compliance with all city and state regulations. Consequently, specific operational restrictions will be implemented, and the necessary applications for operating as a music venue will be promptly filed by them. Bombyx has also committed to an aggressive timeline for installing fire safety systems.

Northampton Fire Chief Jon Davine today revoked the cease and desist order issued on May 19, 2023, which had previously prohibited all music events at Bombyx. This action was taken to ensure the safety of Northampton residents and visitors and to uphold the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Since initiating the closure order, city officials have been diligently working to find a viable solution that would enable Bombyx to continue its operations in some capacity. Through consultations with various city departments, experts from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and careful consideration of the efforts offered by Bombyx to achieve compliance, the city has reached a satisfactory balance between life safety requirements and the shared goal of supporting this valuable organization.

As mentioned, I have offered assistance in seeking funding for the crucial fire safety upgrades required for this historically significant structure. Bombyx should redirect the funds awarded them from the ARPA Community Recovery Grant they applied for a commercial kitchen project, towards implementing compliant fire control systems. I also expect them to apply for a Community Preservation Act grant.

While I understand that this process has been challenging for all parties involved, I take pride that the Fire Chief, the Building Commissioner, and other regulatory officials have prioritized concerns for life safety throughout these discussions. I am grateful to have facilitated a dialogue that has resulted in Bombyx achieving greater safety compliance while being permitted to continue some of its operations. I commend our city experts for their unwavering dedication to preserving human life while finding a way forward.