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TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE

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Charles Hermann, the owner of Aire Taunton, on Jan. 8. EMMA RINDLISBACHER/THE TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE

New Bedford native vies for Miss Portugal title

Lurdes C. da Silva

O Jornal
USA TODAY NETWORK

New Bedford native Kayla Elvira Tavares has set a high bar for her dreams.

Still in her twenties, she has fulfilled quite a few: professional ballerina, NFL cheerleader, beauty queen and most recently Law school admission.

Now, the second-generation Portuguese-American is vying for the Miss Portugal 2026 title, with her eyes set on the Miss Universe pageant.

"I just feel like even though I was born here *o meu coração é português, a minha alma é portuguesa* (my heart is Portuguese, my soul is Portuguese," Tavares told O Jornal. "I just feel that those are my people."

Tavares lived in Dartmouth until age 10, when she moved to Orlando with her

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Miss Portugal contestant Kayla Tavares visits New Bedford's Discovery Language Academy, Feb. 12. LURDES C. DA SILVA/O JORNAL

Taunton no longer seeking to evict airport restaurant

Emma Rindlisbacher

The Taunton Daily Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

Taunton has abandoned its attempts to evict Aire Taunton from the municipal airport, according to an agreement the city has reached with the restaurant.

In May of 2025, the Taunton Airport Commission voted to break its lease with Aire Taunton. And in August 2025, the city filed a lawsuit in Taunton District Court seeking to evict the restaurant.

But now, the city has reached a settle-

ment agreement with Aire Taunton and is no longer seeking to evict the restaurant. The city and the restaurant signed a settlement agreement in January 2026, according to a copy of the agreement obtained by the Gazette, and a city attorney said that the court case would be dismissed at some point in the future.

Here's what we know about the dispute between the city and the restaurant.

History of eviction proceedings

On Aug. 25, 2025, the city of Taunton

filed a "notice to quit" in Taunton District Court saying that restaurant is "required to vacate the premises in their entirety by July 1, 2025." A notice to quit is a legal document that notifies a tenant that "the tenancy will be terminated on a specific date," according to mass.gov.

City officials had alleged instances of poor management at the restaurant and said the restaurant was in violation of its lease with the city. According to a letter read by Airport Commission Chair Steve

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Blizzard wallops Northeast with 'life-threatening' conditions

Christopher Cann,
N'dea Yancey-Bragg, Dinah Voyles
Pulver, Eduardo Cuevas, Doyle Rice
and Brandi D. Addison

USA TODAY NETWORK

NEW YORK – An intensifying winter storm pummeled the Northeast on Feb. 23, bringing blizzard conditions that blanketed major cities in snow, halted travel, closed schools and caused mass power outages.

Over 40 million people were under blizzard warnings from Maryland to

Maine as the storm dumped 2 to 3 inches of snow per hour and brought winds of up to 70 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

Overnight on Feb. 23, blizzard conditions – winds reaching at least 35 mph and snow that reduces visibility to 1/4 mile or less for at least three hours – were verified in Teterboro, Newark and Islip, New Jersey; Westhampton, New York; and Groton, New Haven and Bridgeport, Connecticut, according to the weather service.

Parts of New York, New Jersey, Dela-

ware and Connecticut had recorded 18 to 24 inches of snow by early Feb. 23.

In New York City, which imposed a travel ban late Feb. 22, more than 15 inches had fallen in Central Park by the next morning. Snowfall had reached 17.9 inches in Mott Haven in the Bronx and 17.4 inches in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

New Jersey extended travel restrictions and remained in a state of emergency "in all 21 counties," Gov. Mikie Sherrill posted on X early Feb. 23. At the time, 24.2 inches of snow had been recorded in Freehold in Monmouth Coun-

ty, according to the National Weather Service report.

Snowfall totals neared 2 feet across the Mid-Atlantic region by early Feb. 23. On Long Island, the village of Quogue recorded 23.5 inches of snow and Montauk received 22 inches.

Thundersnow – a rare winter thunderstorm, in which lightning and thunder occur during heavy snow instead of rain – was reported in Scituate and Plymouth, Massachusetts.

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