



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Health & Family Support**

Date: December 1, 2008

To: HEALTH, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Subject: RECOMMENDATION FROM THE MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE PREVENTION OF BINGE DRINKING

Recommendation:

Council authorization for the proper City officials to address the public health problem of binge drinking in Minneapolis through implementation of the Minneapolis Public Health Advisory Committee recommendation that the City form a work group from the departments of Health and Family Support, Intergovernmental Relations, Regulatory Services, Police, and the City Attorney's Office to examine:

- Current zoning and licensing standards for liquor establishments for the impact on access for and proximity to concentrations of young adults
- The resources for and impact of current enforcement efforts
- Possible collaborative efforts between the City, neighborhood groups and schools, colleges and universities
- Possible legislative initiatives that would reduce binge drinking

The departments of Health and Family Support and Police shall convene and staff the work group.

Previous Directives: None

Prepared or Submitted by: Becky McIntosh, Director of Planning & Administration
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Approved by: _____
Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval ____ Not Applicable X
Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval ____ Date of Approval ____ Not Applicable X

Presenters in Committee: Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health
Paul Zerby, Co-Chair, Public Health Advisory Committee
Jay Jaffee, Chemical Health Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Health

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

X No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).

Background/Supporting Information Attached

The recommendation of the Public Health Advisory Committee is attached.

Minneapolis Public Health Advisory Committee Recommendations to Reduce Young Adult Binge Drinking

Background:

The 2007 University of Minnesota Health Survey showed that students who binge drank were far more likely drive under the influence, be taken advantage of sexually, do poorly on a test or project, miss class, and get into arguments as a result of their drinking.

Nearly 27% of 18-24-year-old Minnesotans reported binge drinking in response to the 2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey. In this survey, binge drinking is defined as consuming five or more drinks on one occasion for males; and four or more drinks on one occasion for females.

A University of Minnesota College Student Health Survey showed drinking in the past 30 days by 74.3% of U of M 18-24-year-old undergraduates

According to an analysis of the National Survey on Drug Use and Health of 2005 and 2006 youth reported having 4.9 drinks on the days they drove compared to 2.8 drinks for adults.

Studies reveal that alcohol consumption by adolescents results in brain damage - possibly permanent - and impairs intellectual development (*Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, Volume 24, Number 2*).

Alcohol is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes of teens and college students (*Youth and Alcohol: Dangerous and Deadly Consequences, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, April 1992*).

Alcohol plays a key role in accidents, homicides and suicides, the leading causes of death among youth (*American Academy of Pediatrics, information related to planning and promoting October 1998 Child Health Month, May 1998*).

More than one-third (37.5%) of young adults (ages 18-24) in Minneapolis reported binge drinking in the past 30 days, more than half of these at least 3 times (SHAPE 2006).

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that the 21 drinking age has reduced traffic fatalities for drivers 18 to 20 years old by 13 percent, saving some 900 lives a year.

Studies by the National Institute of Health indicate that delaying drinking by youth contributes to reductions in alcohol dependence, binge drinking and alcohol-associated traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities and violence.

Recommendations:

No single step is likely to be successful, a combination of approaches is needed in order to change the environment related to binge drinking by young adults.

The Minneapolis Public Health Advisory Committee recommends to the City of Minneapolis that the City address the public health problem of binge drinking in Minneapolis by:

- Opposing legislation that would lower the drinking age
- Limit/prohibit the sale of 40 ounce malt liquor
- Banning or limiting practices by licensees that contribute to binge drinking, such as:
 - Serving more than one drink to one person at one time
 - Encouraging or permitting drinking games
 - selling multiple or unlimited drinks for a fixed price
- The PHAC recommends that the City form a work group from the departments of Health and Family Support, Intergovernmental Relations, Regulatory Services, Police, and the City Attorney's Office to examine:
 - Current zoning and licensing standards for liquor establishments for the impact on access for and proximity to concentrations of young adults
 - The resources for and impact of current enforcement efforts
 - Possible collaborative efforts between the City, neighborhood groups and schools, colleges and universities
 - Possible legislative initiatives that would reduce binge drinking

The PHAC fully recognizes that the problem of binge drinking is by no means limited to young adults and also recommends that the City pursue these and such additional initiatives as the work group may develop in cooperation with community groups in addressing the broader problems of binge drinking by Minneapolitans of whatever age.