



**Request for City Council Committee Action  
from the Department of  
Regulatory Services  
Licenses and Consumer Services Division**

To Council Member Samuels, Chairman  
Referral to: Public Safety and Regulatory Services

Subject City Council proposal to Amend Title 14, Chapters 364 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Liquor: Hours, days regulated.

**Recommendation**

Under City Council direction, Licensing and Consumer Services has prepared an amendment to Title 14. Chapter 364 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Liquor: Hours, days regulated.

The proposed amendment would change the closing hours for Off-Sale Liquor establishments from 8:00pm Monday through Thursday to 10:00pm Monday through Thursday. The 10:00pm closing time for Friday and Saturday are not proposed to change.

Licensing and Consumer Services does not make a recommendation on this proposed Amendment to Title 14.

**Previous Directives**

In 2005, the City Council directed staff to amend Title 14, Chapter 364 in response to changes to Minnesota State Statute in 2005. The amendment temporarily changed the hours of Off-Sale Liquor establishments from 8:00pm Monday through Thursday to 10:00pm Monday through Thursday. The hours reverted back to the original closing time on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. The Friday and Saturday closing times were never effected by the changes.

Prepared or Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Ricardo Cervantes, Deputy Director,  
Licenses and Consumer Services

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Burt Osborne, Director, Licenses and Consumer Services

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Rocco Forte, Assistant City Coordinator

Presenters in Committee Ricardo Cervantes, Deputy Director, Licenses and Consumer Services

**Financial Impact (Check those that apply)**

No financial impact - or – Action is within current department budget.

(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

\_\_\_ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

\_\_\_ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

\_\_\_ Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

\_\_\_ Action requires use of contingency or reserves

\_\_\_ Other financial impact (Explain):

\_\_\_ Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

**Community Impact**

On June 12, 2006, notices were sent out to all off-sale liquor establishments and neighborhood associations. No responses were received.

## **Background/Supporting Information Attached:**

### Staff Report

In evaluating the proposed amendment, Licensing worked with the University of Minnesota's Alcohol Epidemiology Program. Given the limited time for a staff report, the analysis is limited to a quick review of the research in the area.

In summary, research indicates:

Numerous research studies demonstrate that increases in the availability of alcohol (including increased density of alcohol establishments and increased hours of sales of alcohol) are associated with increased crime rates and other alcohol related problems. However, the research cannot specifically quantify effects of the addition of 2 hours per day for off-sale liquor stores.

A review of the research the University of Minnesota was able to compile that specifically evaluated "Hours of Sale" is included in the packet. Of the 21 studies, 8 looked specifically at extending closing hours. Only one of those studies looked at the association with crime (i.e. assaults.) That study found that the increase in one hour was associated with increased assault rates. The other studies looked at other alcohol related problems like crashes, health problems, and consumption. These studies found mixed results on the impact of extended hours.

Included in the packet are some articles that generally look at the impact of the availability of alcohol on crime and other alcohol related issues. One article summarizes a recent study (2006), evaluating the impact of availability of alcohol on assaults. The study found:

Stores that sell alcohol magnify violence in all neighborhoods when they are concentrated. The density of bars, on the other hand, intensifies violence only in those communities prone to violence, while moderating violence in quieter neighborhoods.

The other article provides a more general discussion of the research.