

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
Alcohol Retail Outlet Ordinance

IN THE MATTER OF community support for establishing a local land-use (zoning) ordinance known as a Special Use Permit (SUP) and setting nuisance abatement standards to address the proliferation of alcohol outlets and substandard business practices in neighborhoods throughout the City of Omaha.

WHEREAS, the number of liquor licenses in Nebraska has increased substantially, a 31% increase since 1990, while the state's population has increased by nearly 16% during that same period of time;

WHEREAS, research indicates that alcohol outlet density is the single greatest predictor of violent crime in neighborhoods, greater than other social and economic factors; further, alcohol outlet density is associated with increased alcohol consumption, underage drinking, binge drinking, motor vehicle crashes, and hospitalizations among other health problems;

WHEREAS, research has also found that the proliferation of alcohol outlets is both a symptom of economic decline and a factor that worsens the decline;

WHEREAS, concentrations of both on- and off-sale alcohol establishments are associated with high levels of disorderly conduct, including nuisances, jeopardizing the quality of life for area residents;

WHEREAS, these nuisances include, but are not limited to, public inebriation, fights, driving under the influence of alcohol, public urination, littering, loitering, graffiti, noise, and vandalism;

WHEREAS, residents of Omaha have attempted to protect their neighborhoods from further disintegration by working within the state liquor licensing system only to have their concerns ignored;

WHEREAS, residents are not the only group feeling disenfranchised from the licensing process, the Omaha City Council has frequently seen its recommendations on liquor licensing issues overturned by the State and sees a need for more power to control the placement of liquor outlets;

WHEREAS, the City of Omaha has the authority to require businesses, including alcohol outlets to obtain use permits to comply with operational standards as conditions of the permit;

WHEREAS, the use permit will establish standards of operation for licensed alcohol establishments in order to promote successful business practices compatible with healthy economic growth, community safety and enhance the quality of life for the City of Omaha residents;

WHEREAS, imposing conditions and standards of operation in a use permit will assist the City in its efforts to mitigate nuisances and promote a healthier, more successful business environment;

THEREFORE, we/I support local efforts to establish a land-use, zoning ordinance to advocate for more local control of better business practices in our community. This policy will help struggling neighborhoods address the increased violence and crime that is often associated with growing alcohol outlet density and problem businesses while working also to create a healthy business community.

Signature: _____ **Representing:** _____

Printed Name: _____ **City Council Rep:** _____

Address: _____ **Zip** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Phone: (____) _____ **Date:** _____