



City Council

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August 7, 2014

Re: Minneapolis ordinance changes for restaurants serving wine and beer

Dear Business Owner:

Thank you for choosing to have your business in Minneapolis! You are part of what has been called a “restaurant revolution” in our City, making Minneapolis a fantastic destination for food and dining experiences.

We are authors of ordinance changes that will modernize our outdated rules governing restaurants that serve alcohol, specifically wine and beer. We have heard loud and clear from the restaurant industry that food-to-alcohol ratios of 70/30 and 60/40 no longer work. In other words, if your customer wants a burger and a nice craft beer (let alone two drinks!), you would not meet our existing food-alcohol ratio requirements. These rules no longer fit today’s economic realities.

Our regulations need change and our expert Business Licensing staff agrees. We are happy to have the support of Business Licensing Director Grant Wilson and his team, who have worked diligently with restaurant industry members to craft a new proposal for regulating restaurants that serve alcohol in Minneapolis. You can see detail on the proposed changes at www.minneapolismn.gov/licensing.

Our goals for these proposed changes are to:

- Support the restaurant community by removing archaic food-to-alcohol ratios.
- Create a better set of tools that improve the City’s ability to prevent and manage problems, including managing noise issues, requiring a certified alcohol manager, and establishing management responsibilities that help ensure restaurants are good neighbors.
- Recognize differences for restaurants serving alcohol in large commercial corridors versus those in smaller commercial areas, as well as the need to have slightly different regulations (such as a smaller bar area for those in smaller commercial areas) to protect the peace and repose of those communities.

We hope to bring these changes to the City Council for a public hearing and vote this September, with exact dates still being finalized. We are pleased to work with you on this major change for Minneapolis that will hopefully create a better playing field for restaurants to thrive, while allowing licensing staff the ability to address problems proactively and promptly.

We hope that you share your comments with our offices and at the public hearing. Please let us know of your questions or contact Linda Roberts, Business Licensing Assistant Manager, at 612-673-3908 or linda.roberts@minneapolismn.gov. Thank you for contributing your talents to our City!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Glidden

Jacob Frey

Linea Palmisano



www.minneapolismn.gov

Affirmative Action Employer