



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Council Session

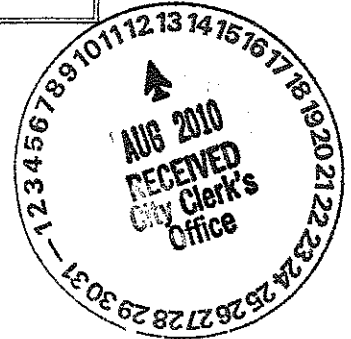
Item H3

**Consideration of Request from Brent Lindner Regarding
Extending Hours of Alcohol Consumption**

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards



REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEM



If you have a specific topic that you would like the City Council to discuss at a future meeting, please list your name, address, telephone number, and the specific topic. The item will be reviewed and possibly scheduled for a future meeting, or forwarded to City staff for appropriate action.

Name: BRENT C. LINDNER

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GRAND ISLAND NE 68801

Telephone #: 308-390-7607

Date of Request: 8-9-2010

Description of Requested Topic: AS MUNICIPALITIES SEEK
MORE REVENUE I WOULD LIKE OUR
CITY TO LOOK AT LETTING LICENSED
FOOD AND BEVERAGE OPERATIONS STAY
OPEN UNTIL 2AM AT OPERATORS
DISCRETION, TO HELP GENERATE MORE
INCOME FOR BOTH OPERATOR AND
MUNICIPALITY.

Grand Island Police Department

Memorandum

To: Jeff Pederson, City Administrator
From: Steve Lamken, Police Chief
Re: Request for Council Agenda Item
Date: 9-3-10

A request to have the City Council consider passing an ordinance to extend the sale of alcoholic beverages to 2:00 AM has been submitted. The following document provides a summary of the potential impact of extending the sale of alcohol to 2:00 AM on police services. I recognize that in submitting this memo that it is not the Police Department's role to restrict or control commerce in Grand Island. It is our role to adapt to the decisions of the Council.

Background:

The Police Department has attempted to research the topic of extending the time allowed for alcohol sales. There is a plethora of research on the impact of alcohol consumption on crime and social disorder; however, that is not the issue at hand. The City has numerous licensed locations where alcohol can be obtained.

Our research was focused on the issue at hand; extending the time allowed for the sale of alcohol. Unfortunately, we have found limited research on the impact of extending the hours of alcohol sales that we could access without costs. The research we have reviewed does not provide conclusions that provide strong guidance. The following is a summary of research we have looked at and any findings that were presented as significant.

1. A study in Minnesota showed an increase in DUI arrests after hours were extended one hour to 2:00 AM in 2003. The research does caution that an increased emphasis by law enforcement on DUI enforcement that could have influenced the data.

2. Three studies from Ontario, Canada on extending the hours of alcohol sales one hour to 2:00 AM in 1996 found:

No significant increase in motor vehicle crashes involving alcohol impairment between 2 and 3 AM.

No significant increases in motor vehicle crash related trauma cases reported by Ontario trauma centers between 2 and 3 AM.

A significant increase in non motor vehicle related trauma cases reported by Ontario trauma centers between 2 and 3 AM.

3. Two studies from Perth, Australia from 1990 to 1997, where 23% of liquor establishments were allowed to extend alcohol sales one hour to 1:00 AM found:

A significant increase in the number of motor vehicle crashes involving alcohol impairment related to the establishments that were allowed to stay open the extended hour in comparison of establishments without the extended hours.

Male drivers between the ages of 18 to 25 apprehended between 12:00 midnight and 2:00 AM who had been drinking at the extended hour establishments had significantly higher blood alcohol levels than from establishments without the extended hours.

Impact on Police Services:

It is our belief that the extension of hours to 2:00 AM will extend the high call for service demands for police services on weekend nights. Analysis of our current call for service demands on Friday and Saturday nights shows a significant drop in call demand around 2:00 AM. We can expect the extension of the on sale hours from 1:00 AM to 2:00 AM to extend our high call for service demands until approximately 3:00 AM. The Department will be required to adjust resources accordingly.

We could experience an increase in the number of people driving while under the influence. Consuming alcohol an additional hour could result in additional impaired drivers as noted in the Minnesota and Australian studies.

We could experience an increase in non vehicular related trauma such as injuries from fights and assaults as noted in the Ontario study.

We will experience an increase in calls for service at on sale licensed liquor establishments. Those licensed establishments that are well managed and well run will continue to not be a problem or create any significant impact. The licensed establishments that require more police services and/or have disturbances, violations and criminal offenses at on a more frequent basis will generate more calls for service with the extended hours.

References:

"Investigating the impact of extended bar closing times on police stops for DUI" Bouffard, Bergeron, Bouffard, Journal of Criminal Justice, Sept/Oct 2007

"Road safety impact of extended drinking hours in Ontario" Vigilis, MeLeod, Seeley, Mann. Beriness, Compton, Accident Analysis & Prevention, May 2005

"Impact of Extended Drinking Hours in Ontario on Motor-Vehicle Collision and Non-Motor-Vehicle collision Injuries" MeLeod, Stoduto, Seeley, Mann, Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, November 2007

"The impact of Ontario's extended drinking hours on cross-border cities of Windsor and Detroit" Vingilis, McLeod, Seeley, Mann, Voas, Compton, Accident Analysis & Prevention, Jan. 2006

"The impact of later trading hours for hotels on levels of impaired driver road crashes and driver breath alcohol levels" Chkritzhs, Stockwell, Addiction, Sept. 2006

"The impact of later trading hours for hotels (public house) on breath alcohol levels of apprehended impaired drivers" Chikritzhs, Stockwell, Addiction, Oct. 2007