

National City Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) Task Force

Stop the Mile of Bars from Developing Near Schools Fact Sheet for September 16, 2003 City of National City- City Council

Recommendation:

To deny the proposed amendment to Title 18 of the National City Municipal Code regarding the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages

Justification/Statistics:

The National School District, Sweetwater Union High School District, National City - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) Task Force, Partners for Prevention, Paradise Valley Hospital and National City Residents oppose the proposed amendments to Title 18.

- Uphold National City Residents' recommendation to deny the proposed amendment to Title 18, and future harm that could come from increased alcohol availability in the City of National City.
- National City Planning Commission voted 7 – 1 to deny the amendment to the current ordinance Title 18, due to existing alcohol over saturation concerns.
- National City is over concentrated with alcohol outlets by State of California Alcoholic Beverage Control regulations. Studies indicate that 10 of the 15 census tracts in National City are over concentrated by state regulatory standards.
- The City of National City – City Council adopted the Title 18 ordinance in 1982, to protect and preserve the public health, safety, and general welfare of community residents and local business owners.
- The proposed amendment to Title 18 would contradict its original intent and purpose because:
 - This amendment would allow existing establishments (convenience stores and restaurants) previously restricted by the original Title 18 ordinance, to now apply for alcohol licenses in close proximity to **ALL** public school campuses in National City.
 - Research studies have found that by adding a single alcohol outlet:
 - ⇒ 2.7 additional motor vehicle accidents occur (Scribner, 1999)
 - ⇒ 3.4 additional assaults occur (Scribner, 1999)
 - ⇒ 5% increase risk of murder (Roncek /Maier, 1991)

- ⇒ Increase violent crimes committed by youth (Alani / Parker, 1998)
- ⇒ 3.38 increase in murder, rape, burglary, grand theft and auto theft
- Additional alcohol establishments will exacerbate crime in National City.
- In 2001, the city of National City had 693 alcohol-related crimes (National City Police Department, Crime Analysis Unit, 2002).
 - Surrounding census tracts within proximity to the Trophy Lounge location in National City are at their maximum limits for off-sale alcohol licenses (i.e. liquor stores).

Concerns:

1. The community is outraged by the proposed amendment, and feels that the current ordinance should remain as is. Amending this ordinance would only further jeopardize the health and safety of residents living within the Trophy Lounge area. Subsequently, if this amendment passes, virtually all areas of National City will be negatively affected.
2. What there is a need for is NOT a new and improved Trophy Lounge. Residents' want..
 - a. A grocery store, where local residents can purchase items.
 - b. Restaurants where families can enjoy their meals without being bombarded by alcohol availability.
3. The amendment to Title 18 will increase crime, Driving Under the Influence (DUI), fatal accidents and therefore will:
 - a. Reduce resident quality of life, safety and security
 - b. Increase the need for police services
 - c. Increase youth access to alcohol