

ORDINANCE #66184
Board Bill No. 352

An ordinance prohibiting the issuance of any package or drink liquor licenses for any currently non-licensed premises within the boundaries of the First Ward Liquor Control District, as established herein, for a period of three years from the effective date hereof; containing an exception allowing, during the moratorium period, for the transfer of existing licenses, under certain circumstances, and the issuance of a drink license to persons operating a restaurant at a previously non-licensed premises; and containing an emergency clause.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.

The existence of alcoholic beverage establishments appears to contribute directly to numerous peace, health, safety and general welfare problems including loitering, littering, drug trafficking, prostitution, public drunkenness, defacement and damaging of structures, pedestrian obstructions, as well as traffic circulation, parking and noise problems on public streets and neighborhood lots. The existence of such problems creates serious impacts on the health, safety and welfare of residents of single- and multiple-family within the district, including fear for the safety of children, elderly residents and of visitors to the district. The problems also contribute to the deterioration of the neighborhood and concomitant devaluation of property and destruction of community values and quality of life. The number of establishments selling alcoholic beverages and the associated problems discourage more desirable and needed commercial uses in the area. In order to preserve the residential character and the neighborhood-serving commercial uses of the area, there shall be a moratorium on the issuance of new liquor licenses within the area beginning at the intersection of the centerlines of N. Euclid Ave. and Northland Ave. and proceeding along the centerlines in a generally clockwise direction west to Union Blvd., south to Northland Pl., west to Arlington Ave., north to Lexington Ave., east and continuing in a straight line to Union Blvd., north to Natural Bridge Ave., east to N. Kingshighway Memorial Blvd., north to Interstate 70, west to Alcott Ave., northeast to Thekla Ave., northwest to Beacon Ave., northeast to Harney Ave., southeast to Alcott Ave., northeast to West Florissant Ave., southeast to Shreve Ave., southwest to Ashland Ave., west to N. Euclid Ave., south to the point of the beginning. Such area shall be known as the First Ward Liquor Control Area.

SECTION TWO. The Excise Commissioner is hereby prohibited, for a period of three years, beginning as of the effective date of this Ordinance, from approving the issuance of a package or drink liquor license for any premises, not licensed as of the effective date hereof, which is located within the boundaries of the First Ward Liquor Control District established in Section One of this ordinance.

SECTION THREE. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section Two of this Ordinance, the Excise Commissioner shall have authority to:

(1) Approve transfer of an existing license to another premises within the petition circle of the currently licensed premises, pursuant to the provisions of subsection (B) of section 14.06.330 of Ordinance 61289; and

(2) Issue a drink license for a premises, not licensed as of the effective date of this Ordinance, which currently is or will be, upon opening, operated as a restaurant, as such term is defined in section 14.01.390 of Ordinance 61289.

(3) Issue a package license for a premises operating as a retail grocery store with annual sales of at least Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) that carries a wide variety of food and grocery items in particular product categories, including bread and dairy products; refrigerated and frozen food and beverage products; fresh and prepared meats and poultry; produce, including fresh fruits and vegetables; shelf-stable food and beverage products, including canned and other types of packaged products; staple foodstuffs, which may include salt, sugar, flour, sauces, spices, coffee, and tea; and other grocery products, including nonfood items such as soaps, detergents, paper goods, other household products, and health and beauty aids.

SECTION FOUR. EMERGENCY CLAUSE.

This being an ordinance for the preservation of public peace, health and safety, it is hereby declared to be an emergency measure within the meaning of Sections 19 and 20 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of St. Louis and therefore this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

Approved: February 25, 2004