

## Received Comments on Proposed Change to Allowable Hours of Off-Sale Liquor Purchases in Saint Paul

Comments collected from July 1-August 31, 2017

Total Received Comments: 51

District Council Feedback: 4

Business Owner Feedback: 13

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Supportive: 43

Opposed: 7

Neutral: 1

Name, Contact, Association	Comments	Position
<b>Kathleen Culhane, Sidhe Brewing</b>	Yes, at Sidhe we are often turning folks away after 8 pm who walk in carrying a growler that they want us to fill. This is lost revenue for us, and also for St. Paul. I suspect most of them are not from St Paul and aren't aware of our local ordinances. Changing it would be an easy way to make our city look better to our consumers.	Support
<b>Bob Kowalski, Kowalski's Markets</b>	Yes Kowalskis is in full support of the extended hour changes and appreciate Council member Tolbert work towards this.	Support
<b>Mike Sonn, 14xx Wellesley Ave</b>	I also wanted to send my support for your initiative to extend off-sale liquor hours to 10pm. This will bring St Paul in line with nearly every surrounding municipality. I know many people who are forced to travel out of our city after 8pm. Also, our breweries deserve the opportunity to sell growlers to 10pm as well. Thank you for addressing this and let me know how I can help this become a reality.	Support
<b>Jim Mogen, 19xx Lincoln Ave</b>	Thanks for visiting the Mac Grove HLU meeting last night. I wanted to provide my support for the idea of standardizing the operating times for off-sale liquor licenses.  I support the move to a 10pm time during the week.  The first step of government should be "does the regulation accomplish something". There is no evidence that an 8pm closing time prevents has any adverse impacts.  Minneapolis and all of the surrounding communities are good control cases, and I don't notice any impact that would be prevented by an earlier closing time. In St. Paul, you can't even say that later times on Friday and Saturday have created any problems.  Furthermore, it should not be the goal of any regulation to limit own owner because another doesn't want to compete. Stores can decide whether to stay open, but the City shouldn't make that decision except for health and safety.	Support
<b>Jack Lanners, President, F.T.L. Corporation, 2xx White Bear Ave</b>	I received your letter and explanation of potential ordinance change for the city of St. Paul closing hours.  Born and raised in St. Paul and doing business in the off sale area since 1980 I cannot express how much of a relief this ordinance change would be for us and our business.  Located at 275 White Bear Ave the surrounding communities have us at a disadvantage Monday thru Thursday. This also spills over to the	Support

weekend as shoppers tend to frequent established stores where they shop.

Some of our reasons to change the ordinance:

- > Allow us to compete fairly.
- > Higher wages make us less sustainable while more hours equals more employee work time and wages.
- > More city tax revenue collected.
- > Greater business revenue to remain profitable and survive.
- > New large competitors in the surrounding area are hurting border operations significantly.
- > Why not conform to State rules and eliminate confusion and an unfair marketplace?

I would be glad to discuss this issue with anyone in order to accomplish this change as possible.

<b>Midway Liquor</b>	Please NO!!	Oppose
<b>Jean and Mark Schroepfer, 2xx Summit Ave</b>	Mark Schroepfer and Jean Schroepfer support the proposed ordinance change allowing liquor sales until 10:00p Monday through Saturday.	Support
<b>Chad Radenbaugh, Park Liquor</b>	<p>Hi Libby, This is Chad Radenbaugh from Park Liquor Store in St. Paul. Being an owner for the last 23 years I don't feel like there is a need for a change. I work 65 hours a week here to support my wife and 3 children. It's nice to get home in time to see them before they go to bed and get my ONE day (sometimes) on Sunday. Just wanted to voice my opinion.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Hi Libby, My name is Chad Radenbaugh. I have been a co-owner of Park Liquor in St. Paul for 23 years. I am writing in to oppose the expanding hours to Liquor stores. Not only is it hard enough to run my own business but also add on the additional cost and the fact that it is hard enough to leave my house at 7:00 AM, Get my children to school, work until 8:00 and then race home just in hopes that they are still awake to say goodnight, 4 days a week and FORGET about the weekends! I'd really like to see a copy of MEMBER TOLBERTS time card.</p> <p>In addition, if the general public can't figure out that they "need" alcohol in the time frame that stores are open, then maybe they aren't responsible to drink in the first place. Add in the fact that the only thing this accomplishes is you now allow the people who run to the liquor store at 7:55 to get their booze to wait until 9:55.</p> <p>This sounds like maybe someone (MEMBER TOLBERT) might have some outside interest in making this happen. Please tell him to do ALL of us independent, tax paying, license paying store owners a favor and NOT let this happen.</p> <p>Sorry I will NOT be able to attend on the 7th, as I will be dropping my daughter off at school before I start my 12 hour day. Give my regards to MEMBER TOLBERT and his COLLEAGUES.</p>	Oppose
<b>Jeff Moriarity, President, Founder, Tin Whiskers Brewing Co</b>	Since 6/22, we have lost 34 growler sales (or \$680) just Tuesday-Thursday between 8-10pm. I would say 80+% of the time we have to turn down growler sales during these blocked off sale hours, the customer responds in a way that reflects negatively on this St. Paul ordinance (variations of "what a dumb law," "that's silly since Minneapolis can," etc.), to further reinforce what some of the other brewers said in this email chain.	Support
<b>Mike</b>	I own Park Liquor in St. Paul and I am against extending the hours to 10 pm on Monday - Thursday. Extending the hours only increases the	Oppose

<b>Radenbaugh, Park Liquor</b>	costs for small business owners without adding any additional sales (or tax revenue!). Thanks for your consideration.	
<b>Jeannette Larson</b>	Yes! Permit St Paul liquor stores to remain open to 10pm Monday through Thursday	Support
<b>Jayne Nieme</b>	Liquor stores should be allowed to remain open until 10 every night, and yes, I also support Sunday sales. As a working person who has limited shopping time, and an avid cook and eater, it is often the case that the 8 pm close affects me negatively. It seems like an antiquated paternalistic regulation that helps no one.	Support
<b>Dan Dwight, 11xx Juliet Ave</b>	Do it! I'm tired of people telling me to plan ahead. With two kids and a job that often keeps me in the office past 8 PM, it is a big hassle.  Also, my main shop is Marshall Liquors - a nice family run shop. If it's after 8 PM on a weeknight, they lose my business to Total Wine in Roseville.  Feel free to reach out if you want more info	Support
<b>Mark Staloch</b>	Chris Tolbert is exploring changing allowing St. Paul liquor stores to remain open until 10 p.m.  I agree with this decision; neighboring cities including Minneapolis and Lilydale have had 10 p.m for years and many in St. Paul simply go there past 8 pm.  I live in Summit Hill and have been a St. Paul resident for 25 years, and prefer to support local liquor stores.  It is a way to increase tax revenues, allow small businesses to have 10 more hours in the week to make revenue, and employ staff at those locations for 2 hours more per day.  I would encourage Chris to also continue to fight for Sunday liquor sales as well.  Common sense reforms of outdated laws should be the norm in St. Paul and the current mayor and city council are starting to realize that.	Support
<b>Union Park District Council</b>	At its regular meeting on August 3, 2016, the Union Park District Council Board discussed the proposed change to allowable liquor store hours in the City of Saint Paul from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and the associated ordinance amendment. After discussion, the Committee <b>voted unanimously in support</b> of the proposed change and ordinance amendment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.	Support
<b>James Hamilton</b>	Yes to 10:00 p.m. liquor sales.	Support
<b>Jim Thomas, Thomas Liquors and Fine Wines</b>	I represent our family at Thomas Liquors and Fine Wines on Grand Av. We are very definitely opposed to the 10pm nightly proposal. We have been in the off sale business since prohibition ended, and know the patterns of our customers. Most of our business comes in the afternoon and very early evening. We have learned from experience, that being open on Friday and Saturday night till 10 only seems to attract the younger crowd. The students, in particular, and many others who would be better off without a purchase!  We are very serious about our business. We try to avoid selling products that are targeted to the younger drinker. Moderation and safety is our goal. With that in mind, longer hours would be contrary to what we are trying to achieve and contrary to what the neighborhood expects.	Oppose

<b>Eric Hansen</b>	I'm a sober former drinker. I support extended hours for liquor sales because it's good for business and makes our city more attractive to people who are just getting to know about St. Paul. There's a certain portion of drinkers who drink heavily and/or are alcoholics and who will drive drunk to get more liquor when they run out. Trust me, I know. Making that subset of drinkers drive to a suburb to purchase more puts those drunk drivers on the road for a longer period and places more of the rest of us at risk for longer periods of time.	Support
<b>Michael Vander Hayden, Christine Liquors</b>	Hello, I am Michael Vander Heyden, owner of Christine Liquors. I am in favor of the 10:00 PM closing time in effort to align with all neighboring communities.	Support
<b>Mark Kotsonas, X Delos St. W.</b>	I wanted to comment that I am in favor of extending liquor store hours until 10:00 Monday through Thursday. I thought it was a frustrating when I recently went to a tap room on a Thursday, full of people drinking beer, and I almost was not sold a growler because it was 8:00. I was unaware of the discrepancies in the laws.	Support
<b>Laurie Siever</b>	I am all in favor of liquor stores staying open until 10:00 during the week. We need to stop being so conservative. We are losing tax revenue off liquor sales and it makes no sense when we are always hearing about the need for property taxes going up in Saint Paul.  Please push for this change!!!	Support
<b>Linda Ruiz</b>	I am completely for extending liquor store hours to 10:00pm during the week.	Support
<b>Joelle Tegwen</b>	I am in favor of this change	Support
<b>Gail Merriam</b>	Change ordinance to allow liquor sales until 10pm Monday-Thursday instead of making them close at 8pm.	Support
<b>Patrick Klinger</b>	As a resident of downtown Saint Paul, I fully support expanded liquor store hours in our community. The current ordinance places us at a competitive disadvantage, prompts unnecessary trips and is not conducive to the way many consumers - myself included - shop.	Support
<b>Paula, Saint Paul Resident</b>	I am opposed and I have my reasons	Oppose
<b>Veronica, Macalester Groveland</b>	This change is the first good things I've heard coming out of the City in a long time.	Support
<b>Don Grundhauser</b>	This change is a good idea. Always hearing "what the heck, Saint Paul, you can buy it until 10PM in Woodbury or Cottage Grove"	Support
<b>Anonymous</b>	Of course liquor store hours should be extended to 10PM!	Support
<b>Brandon Jutz</b>	As I resident of Highland Park since 2006 I often ran into the issue of the St. Paul stores closing before the Minneapolis stores.  For whatever reason (last minute invites, last item on the list of chores) I often find myself driving over the 46th street bridge to Fall Liquors or Elevated Wine and Spirits to make my purchases.  I love The Ale Jail/Wine Thief and Parkway Liquors has all the basics but after spending so much time in Minneapolis because that's all that was open I do find myself driving across the city line even when the St. Paul Stores are open.	Support

	<p>I'm all for allowing the St. Paul locations to consider staying open later. Most are in commercial areas with other stores open that late or later and most (at least in Highland) are fairly reputable. I would like to see them thrive and be able to compete better against Minneapolis stores.</p> <p>Now...when we can we talk about Sunday hours?!</p> <p>Thank you for your time!</p>	
<b>Phil Platt, 13xx Osceola Ave</b>	It's time St. Paul caught up with our neighbors. 10:00 pm is a reasonable closing hour every day. Except Sunday. Maybe that will change someday soon.	Support
<b>Shelia Sweeney</b>	I am writing here as a private citizen to express my strong support for expanded liquor store hours. If I had written before, just ignore. I had it on my list, thought I had done it, but didn't check it off!	Support
<b>Michael Roehr, 21xx Juliet Ave</b>	As a resident of St. Paul (21xx Juliet Ave. 55104) I support changing the ordinance to allow for later sales and aligning with adjacent cities.	Support
<b>Nancy Sampair</b>	I just read Councilmember Tolbert's Update. He requested input on the regulations pertaining to off-sale liquor. I support the City of Saint Paul expanding the hours of off-sale liquor to align with those in (most) surrounding cities, i.e., sales permitted until 10PM Monday-Saturday. For the reasons he cited (especially with regard to breweries), in my view it makes common sense to expand the hours.	Support
<b>Angel Chandler</b>	I thought you might find this article helpful in making a decision on extended hours for liquor stores... <a href="http://www.health.state.mn.us/alcohol/alcpdf/HumanandEconomicCostofAlcoholUseinMinnesota.pdf">http://www.health.state.mn.us/alcohol/alcpdf/HumanandEconomicCostofAlcoholUseinMinnesota.pdf</a>	Neutral
<b>Peter Grafstrom</b>	Just read the pipress write up. Let the liquor stores stay open until a reasonable time. Like nine or ten. Please count this as a supportive comment. Worst law in the whole city code.	Support
<b>Ron Gerdes</b>	Please keep up the good work and engagement regarding transit in St. Paul. Also, I strongly support expansion of liquor store and brewery off- sales hours to 10 PM during the week.	Support
<b>Jim Lee, Cub Liquor</b>	I am in STRONG STRONG support of this change. I have competition right across the street that is allowed to stay open until 10PM.	Support
<b>Highland District Council</b>	WHEREAS, the Highland District Council has heard concerns from liquor store owners that the 8:00 PM closing time has adversely affected the stores located close to neighboring municipalities, and WHEREAS, the State of MN allows for liquor stores to be open between the hours of 8:00 AM and 10:00 PM Monday –Saturday; therefore BE IT RESOLVED, that the HDC's Board of Directors supports a change to the hours of operation for off-sale Liquor Stores in the City of Saint Paul, in an effort to make St. Paul competitive with surrounding municipalities and no longer disadvantage beer, wine and liquor merchants located in neighborhoods adjoining municipalities that allow for longer on sale hours.	Support
<b>Summit- University Planning Council</b>	The Summit-University Planning Council is in support of extending weekday hours for liquor stores in Saint Paul to 10 pm. We do not see any problem with Saint Paul being consistent with neighboring communities, and encourage you to vote in favor of the proposed changes. Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.	Support

<b>Michael McCafferty, McCafferty's Liquor, 1325 Randolph Ave</b>	<p>My name is Michael Mccafferty and I am the owner of Mccaffertys liquor,1325 Randolph ave. I have owned the store for the last fifteen years. Prior to that I owned Rite liquor on Snelling ave. My home is at 1338 Hillcrest ave.</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to expanding the hours that liquor can be sold. In speaking with other owners of independent stores in St.Paul , I am yet to find one that supports it. The reason that I and others oppose is basically the same reason why we oppose Sunday sales . The additional sales will not cover our increased expenses incurred by staying open. The additional cost of staffing and all the other added cost like utilities, and insurance won't me made up. The fact is that sales probably won't increase at all. They will just be spread out over a longer period. People only drink so much. Expanding hours doesn't mean greater sales. Independent liquor store owners work long enough. We don't need to add more hours to an already long work week ,and we can't afford it.</p> <p>So who really wants it? The answer is the new guys in the retail liquor business.Target,Trader Joes and kowalski's. They are already open and fully staffed until after 10pm. It doesn't cost them a thing to move an employee from the deli counter to the liquor counter. Independent liquor stores are already taking a hit from these corporate owned stores. We don't have the buying power they do and as a result can't complete with them on pricing. Why are we so quick to change the rules for them? The Rules were already changed to give the a license to begin with.</p> <p>As to the take home growler set. They knew what the hours of sales were when they signed up. If anything, change the regulations for them and them alone. Growlers aren't really "off sale" by definition anyway. If they were then I could sell them, and I can't. The" brewery culture "is so new that we don't know what will become of it. Beards get shaven and tattoos fade. The regulations shouldn't be changed for all of us based on the needs of a few that may or may not be around in a few years .</p> <p>The bottom line is that St.Paul's independent liquor stores are suffering. Some more then others. My stores sales are down about 40% with the Randolph road construction and increased corporate competition. That's about 4K a month out of my pocket. Imagine 4K a month cut from your families budget. The liquor retail pie is only so big. Every time the rules are changed we independents get hurt. I fear that the independent family run liquor stores in St.Paul will soon go the way of the mom and pop drugstores that used to be in every neighborhood.Cvs and Walgreens haven't increased the charm and diversity that the city of St.Paul is or was know for.Small independent businesses have always been the key to the city's success. It's what separates us from the suburbs. We shouldn't follow their lead.</p> <p>I am sorry that a will not be able to attend the meeting at 7:30 am on September 7th as I will be dropping kids off at school and my wife will be at work. As independent owners we can't afford to hire corporate spokespersons to attend. I am sure target and kowalski's will have people there.</p>	Oppose
<b>District 10 Como Community Council</b>	<p>The District 10 Como Community Council supports the proposed change to allowable liquor store hours. It is our understanding that the changes are to move the closing times from 8pm to 10pm Monday through Thursday. Given that all but one suburb have already adopted these hours, we feel that Saint Paul liquor store and craft brewery owners are at a competitive disadvantage. This change in the law can only help increase sales at liquor stores and craft breweries thereby bringing in additional tax revenue for The City.</p>	Support
<b>Nick Nadeau, 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Ave Liquors, 918 Grand Ave</b>	<p>My name is Nick Nadeau and I own 1st Grand Avenue Liquors in St Paul. We will be unable to attend the meeting regarding the 10pm closing change in St Paul. I am hoping that this letter can help influence the decision on this matter. We have been a family owned store since 1962, on the corner of Grand and Milton. In recent years liquor licenses have been given to big box stores and grocery in the area. These are the entities that are lobbying to get these long stand laws changed as they are already open and</p>	Oppose

	<p>can afford to employ people to 10 and beyond. This change would put a large strain on our store ( and others) as we would need hire to accompany these hours. I have experience in owning a store in Woodbury for a number of years. After 8pm there was little to no business, yet we had to pay to have people run the store until 10pm, needless to say we are no longer in Woodbury. The people that we hire also have day jobs or (in our area) have school. It is very hard to keep employees when they are expected to work till 10pm. I understand that just because the law is changed we do not need to be open but thats not really how it works, if our competitors are open so must we be or again adding to the strain. For what is worth I ask you to not go forward with this change. Please feel free to contact me at 651.227.7039 or respond to this letter if you wish to discuss this further.</p>	
<b>Marcus</b>	<p>Hi Libby, this is Marcus and even though I live in Minneapolis I support changing the regulation of take-home liquor sales from 8 to 10, the cut-off time in many places around Minnesota. While I don't understand economics very well, I do know that those are two extra hours where St. Paul's brewers and liquor stores could compete at least, and considering that there are 313 days a year where liquor stores can be operating, that's over 600 hours of potential new business revenue for every store, bar or taproom!</p> <p>Thanks for reading.</p>	Support
<b>Ann Erickson</b>	<p>I have lived in St Paul 30 years and never want to see it at a disadvantage to Minneapolis! Please do everything you can to help the independent Brewers of St. Paul as they're a wonderful group of hard working people and deserve fast support on outdated disadvantage prone laws!</p>	Support
<b>Andrew Schmitt</b>	<p>I'm excited to hear that you may be considering updating the liquor code in St. Paul. Much the same way that Minnesota loses jobs and revenue to Wisconsin every week, St. Paul regularly loses local jobs and revenue to nearby communities. Like many of my neighbors, I've driven outside city limits to purchase adult beverages when city code has stopped local businesses from participating in commerce during the hours of their choice. It should be up to retailers have the choice to stay open to 10:00 p.m. (or later). While It may work for some, and it may not work for others, this proposed change would allow all retailers to compete while offering more convenience for shoppers in St. Paul.</p>	Support
<b>Brittany Johnson, 216 Otis Ave, Apt. 6</b>	<p>I am writing to say that as a St. Paul resident I <u>strongly</u> support extending off-sale liquor purchases for stores and breweries until 10:00 PM. City government should do more to allow the burgeoning craft brewing industry to flourish in our city. Allowing breweries to sell growlers until their closing time makes far more sense than the current 8:00 PM cut-off time. Additionally, allowing stores to sell until 10:00 PM if they choose to is more customer friendly.</p>	Support
<b>Andrew Wagner, 238 Victoria Street N.</b>	<p>This is a no-brainer. Please allow breweries and liquor stores to sell their products until 10PM. Why government should be able to restrict the hours that businesses can choose to be open is beyond me, but that issue aside, I can't tell you how many times I've either had to give up or drive to Minneapolis due to St. Paul's outrageously early mandated closing times.</p>	Support
<b>Bruce Fairbault</b>	<p>Very supportive. Good for small liquor stores. Our area of Highland Park has a lot of professionals who work long hours, it would be good for them.</p>	Support
<b>Vernon Cross, Selby Wine and Spirits</b>	<p>Very supportive</p>	Support