

PROPOSED CHANGE TO ALLOWABLE LIQUOR STORE HOURS

Currently the City of Saint Paul requires off-sale liquor purchases to end at 8:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Some members of the Saint Paul City Council are exploring amending the allowable hours of liquor off-sale to 10:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday to align with current regulations in surrounding cities.

Background

- Prior to 2005, State Law mandated that liquor stores in cities of the first class (Minneapolis, Saint Paul and Duluth) close at 8:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. All other municipalities were allowed to sell liquor until 10:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday.
- In 2005, that State Law was repealed; Minneapolis and Duluth changed their ordinances the same year to 10:00 p.m. closures Monday- Saturday. Saint Paul did not.

Liquor in Saint Paul

- As of June 21, 2016 the City of Saint Paul has 50 active off-sale liquor licenses.
- With the exception of Mendota Heights (whose liquor stores close at 9:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday) every other municipality sharing a border with Saint Paul is consistent with a 10:00 p.m. closing time Monday-Saturday.
- Saint Paul has a burgeoning brewery culture. Right now, with the exception of Sundays', breweries can only sell growlers during legal hours for off-sale. So while most breweries are open until 10:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday they cannot sell take-home brews for the last two hours of business, meaning lost revenue for the breweries and frustration and confusion for customers.

City	Monday-Thursday	Friday & Saturday
Arden Hills	10PM	10PM
Falcon Heights	10PM	10PM
Gem Lake	10PM	10PM
Lauderdale	10PM	10PM
Little Canada	10PM	10PM
Maplewood	10PM	10PM
Mendota	10PM	10PM
Mendota Heights	9PM	10PM
Minneapolis	10PM	10PM
Oakdale	10PM	10PM
Roseville	10PM	10PM
Saint Paul	8PM	10PM
Shoreview	10PM	10PM
South Saint Paul	10PM	10PM
Vadnais Heights	10PM	10PM
West Saint Paul	10PM	10PM
Woodbury	10PM	10PM

Proposed Ordinance Amendment

The proposed ordinance change below would change the allowable liquor store hours in Saint Paul from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday. The proposed changes to holiday hours are already state law and the amendment would bring city code into compliance.

Sec. 409.07.

- (b) ~~Off-sale hours of sale. No off-sale shall be made before 8:00 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m. of any day except off sale shall be permitted on Friday and Saturday until 10:00 p.m. No off-sale shall be made on Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day, December 25, or after 8:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24. If the sale of liquors is not otherwise prohibited on July 3, the date preceding Thanksgiving Day or on December 31, off sale may be made until 10:00 p.m.~~

LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS. SHOULD THE CITY CHANGE ITS ORDINANCE TO ALIGN WITH ADJACENT CITIES? DO YOU LIKE THE ORDINANCE AS IS?

Contact Libby Kantner, libby.kantner@ci.stpaul.mn.us or (651) 266-8631 by September 1st. The Council will compile all received comments for public review.