

**AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE
ISSUANCE OF NEW BUSINESS LICENSES TO LIQUOR STORES SEEKING
TO OPERATE IN THE THIRD COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT**

#4758

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Oliver**

Co-Sponsor:

**Council
President
Shabazz**

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council (“Council”) has an interest in the health and safety of the residents of Wilmington (the “City”); and

WHEREAS, it is well-established, and recognized by this Council, that the overconsumption of alcoholic beverages can cause adverse health effects; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Third Councilmanic District (the “Third District”) have expressed concern with the number of liquor stores within the Third District and have objected to the addition of any new liquor stores in the Third District; and

WHEREAS, with the increasing number of liquor stores operating within the Third District, Council deems it necessary and appropriate to place a temporary 120-day moratorium on the issuance of new business licenses to package stores which sell alcoholic beverages, such as spirits, wine, and beer, in the Third District to allow time for Council to determine whether the Third District is oversaturated with alcohol retailers and to research the relationship between the accessibility and/or location of liquor stores and the overconsumption of alcoholic beverages; and

WHEREAS, the data collected during the temporary moratorium will assist Council in examining the prevalence of the oversaturation of liquor stores in the Third District and Citywide, and in determining the appropriate next steps to improve the health, safety, and quality of life of City residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON
HEREBY ORDAINS:**

SECTION 1. Temporary Moratorium Established. A temporary moratorium is hereby established on the issuance of any new business licenses to package stores which sell alcoholic beverages, such as spirits, wine, and beer, within the geographical boundaries of the Third Councilmanic District as those boundaries exist on January 1, 2020. This moratorium shall only apply to new businesses that do not have a current business license to operate as a package store to sell alcoholic beverages, such as spirits, wine, and beer, within the geographical boundaries of the Third Councilmanic District as of the date that the Mayor signs this Ordinance.

SECTION 2. Effective Period of Temporary Moratorium. The temporary moratorium set forth in Section 1 shall become effective on the date that the Mayor signs this Ordinance, and shall remain in effect for 120 days from that date.

SECTION 3. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage by City Council and approval by the Mayor.

First Reading..... January 16, 2020
Second Reading..... January 16, 2020
Third Reading.....

Passed by City Council,

President of City Council

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Mayor

SYNOPSIS: This Ordinance enacts a temporary 120-day moratorium on the issuance of new business licenses to package stores selling alcoholic beverages, such as spirits, wine, and beer, within the geographical boundaries of the Third Councilmanic District. The purpose of this temporary moratorium is to allow sufficient time for City Council to research whether the Third Councilmanic District is oversaturated with alcohol retailers.