

Wilmington, Delaware
June 2, 2022

#XXXX

WHEREAS, Title 4, Chapter 7 of the Delaware Code prohibits the sale of alcohol after

Sponsor:

1:00 AM; and

**Council
Member
Oliver**

WHEREAS, the restaurant and leisure industries are amongst the most impacted by the pandemic, prolonging the operating hours for on-premises alcohol consumption can increase their potential for revenue and growth. The City of Wilmington's proximity to other large cities and the recent easing of COVID-19 restrictions presents an opportunity for the City to offer alternative late-night entertainment that attracts and retains tourists; and

WHEREAS, an increased allowance of hours in Wilmington would allow for more local independence and flexibility. Businesses licensed for on-premises alcohol sales would be at liberty to retain their current hours or to expand them, as deemed necessary to allow a greater window of opportunity for revenue generation; and

WHEREAS, the risks of alcohol-related traffic accidents have been reduced over the years due to the wide availability of ride-sharing services; and

WHEREAS, later operating hours would enable Wilmington to boost its regional competitiveness with other cities in this sector. A majority of states give municipalities the flexibility to permit alcohol service until at least 2:00 AM, to allow for additional economic activity. All states adjacent to the State of Delaware have allowances for comparatively later hours of operation for their municipalities, under certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, the leisure and hospitality sector has had the largest employment loss of any industry. Restaurants and other businesses that require high levels of social interaction were limited in their ability to adapt to COVID-19. As the State of Delaware works to support

industries impacted by the pandemic, extending hours for late-night entertainment and alcohol consumption in the City of Wilmington can help businesses rebound and grow.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON encourages the Delaware General Assembly to allow for the City of Wilmington to extend its legal on-premises alcohol sales to 2:00 a.m. EST.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by increasing operating hours for businesses selling alcohol on-premises to match those of municipalities in surrounding states, the State of Delaware can increase its regional competitiveness, attract and retain tourists, and generate more local spending in Wilmington. After the significant financial hardships that accompanied the pandemic, an easement of restrictions is necessary to support the economic recovery of our struggling businesses.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution encourages the Delaware General Assembly to allow for the City of Wilmington to expand the sale of on-premises alcohol sales until 2:00 a.m. EST.