

**MINUTES**  
**City Council Liquor Committee Meeting & Public Hearing**  
Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Members Present: Councilman Mike Anglin, Councilman Leigh Greden, Councilman Stephen Rapundalo, and Councilman Ron Suarez

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mary Fales, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Councilman Rapundalo called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Ms. Fales delivered a powerpoint presentation entitled, "Development District Liquor Licenses."

Councilman Rapundalo opened the public hearing.

Roger Hewitt, Ann Arbor resident and Chairman of the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority, noted there were good and bad aspects of the downtown liquor license system. He suggested that recipients of a liquor license be required to follow restricted hours of service; recipients be allowed to serve only beer and wine; and recipients be required to serve only seated patrons.

Grace Singleton, an employee of Zingermann's Deli, asked if licenses were limited to entities serving liquor (as opposed to selling it). She worried that the new downtown licenses might reduce the value of existing Class C liquor licenses. She cautioned against playing favorites with certain businesses.

Jim McDonald, owner of Bella Ciao restaurant in downtown Ann Arbor, asked how many escrow licenses were available in Ann Arbor. He also inquired about the details for determining whether a quota license is available. He believes that the City does not lack a sufficient number of existing quota liquor licenses, but potential new businesses don't want to pay the price.

Eric Egan, an attorney representing Salarita's Fresh Cantina in Ann Arbor, said that Salarita's has a downtown license application pending with the City. He said Salarita's customers often ask for a drink, but cannot afford to buy a quota liquor license. He agreed that hours should be limited for recipients of a downtown liquor license, and that licenses should only be awarded to entities that serve seated patrons. He opposed a limitation against serving liquor. He said his clients were willing to help establish reasonable criteria, but hope the process for reviewing their application would be expedited.

Babs from Babs Underground Lounge said the downtown liquor licenses are a good idea, but she believes the only requirement the City should implement that food be served. She said the City does not need anymore bars that do not serve food. She opposes a restriction on hours of operations as long as the establishment has sold a certain amount of food during the evening.

There being no further speakers, Councilman Rapundalo adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm.

Submitted by: Councilman Leigh Greden