

PARTS Salinas Addresses Alcohol Licenses in Salinas

PARTS is concerned about the proliferation of Type 20 and 21 Off Sale beer and wine licenses in neighborhoods that already have sufficient outlets. PARTS worked hard to preserve the "one for one" license policy that worked so well in Salinas for many years.

Unfortunately, the community lost that debate on July 9, 2013 when the City Council formally abolished the "one for one" policy.

Quick Background: Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) of the State of CA determines the number of approved Type 20 and 21 alcohol licenses in the City of Salinas. PARTS focuses on the sales of Type 20 and 21 Off-Sale licenses that together allow the sale of beer, wine, and spirits in unopened, original containers. These 2 types of licenses only apply to liquor and grocery stores, gas stations, etc. Type 20 and 21 licenses do not apply to restaurants, bars, and wine tasting rooms, clubs and establishments considered On-Sale.

Some business investors requested the Salinas City Council to eliminate the "one for one" Liquor Licensing policy. That meant to get a license one had to become available, leading to the description of "one for one". After July 9, 2013, a business owner could request a Type 20 or 21 license and after review by the City, if the business met the requirements of the City, a new license would be granted.

Per an ABC data report on August 6, 2015 the City of Salinas had 68 Type 20 and 23 Type 21 alcohol licenses currently active. PARTS strongly believes regulating the number of Off-Sale alcohol outlets in a given census tract has been proven to be an important tool to avoid underage drinking. Here are the factors to consider:

1. Clustering outlets in a small geographic neighborhood;
2. Outlets near parks, schools, or churches, or where young people meet;
3. Neighborhoods with a dense population base;
4. Criminal statistics in the neighborhood.

Here is a very recent quote from the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation... "A number of studies have found that in and near neighborhoods where there is a high density of places that sell alcohol, there is a higher rate of violence." (June 2015)

Considering the above factors, PARTS will continue to oppose Type 20 and Type 21 alcohol licenses being issued where location adds to the risk of underage drinking. The once "one for one" alcohol outlet policy helped eliminate the overconcentration of outlets in City of Salinas. One of the primary goals of PARTS is the health and safety of our communities while improving our neighborhoods, through environmental and policy changes.

Additional references: *Regulating Alcohol Outlet Density, Action Guide*, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA),

Center on Alcohol Marketing & Youth, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

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