



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Grand Forks Public Health

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Memo

Date: March 28, 2019

To: Grand Forks City Council Members
Michael Brown, Mayor
Todd Feland, City Administrator
Maureen Storstad, Director of Finance and Administrative Services
Sherie Lundmark, City Clerk
Howard Swanson, City Attorney
Mark Nelson, Chief, Police Department

From: Debbie Swanson, Director, Health Department

Re: Grand Forks City Council Proposed Ordinance Creating Alcoholic Beverage License for Domestic Distilleries

The proposed ordinance that creates a new class of liquor license for domestic distilleries has a provision for complimentary samples of products to be provided that exceeds recommended levels of consumption on one occasion. It is the recommendation of the Grand Forks Public Health Department to amend the ordinance as outlined below.

Proposed Amendment

Page 2 - (3) A licensee under this section may offer complimentary samples of distilled spirits produced on the premises provided that the sample size of each sample is no greater than one (1) fluid ounce and that the total of all samples not to exceed ~~six (6)~~ three (3) fluid ounces per customer. No other alcoholic beverages may be sampled on the premises.

Justification

A serving of distilled spirits is 1.5 ounces. Samples totaling six ounces would be the equivalent of four servings or similar to four mixed drinks. This exceeds the low risk drinking limits for most adults. If six ounces were consumed through sampling, there is likelihood that it would cause impairment. (National Institutes of Health).

The upper limit of three ounces allows for six .5 ounce samples or three one ounce samples which meets the definition of low risk drinking. This would allow customers to sample a variety of products produced on-site.

I discussed the proposed amendment with Tyler Seim of Red Pine Distillery, the business requesting the new license classification. He did not express any concerns about this amendment to the ordinance.

References

National Institutes of Health. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Rethinking Drinking Alcohol and Your Health*. (June 2012).

National Institutes of Health. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. *Drinking Levels Defined*. Retrieved from <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/alcohol-health/overview-alcohol-consumption/moderate-binge-drinking>