

# Aurora Liquor Informational Bulletin

This is the third edition of City of Aurora Liquor Licensee informational bulletin. If you know of others that would benefit from subscribing, please forward them this link:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/kJWE3xN/liquor>

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### **Aurora Small Business Grant Rescue Program**

With guidance from the Aurora City Council, the city of Aurora is launching two additional American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding programs June 27 to support small businesses and nonprofits impacted by COVID-19. When the application opens, applicants must create a profile on the application portal to access the application and upload documents. The Aurora Small Business Grant Rescue Program will provide \$2.5 million in grant funding to Aurora small businesses.

Businesses are invited to apply starting June 27, and grant funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements and supply supporting documentation as outlined at [www.auroragov.org/arpagrants](http://www.auroragov.org/arpagrants). The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. July 15.

The Aurora-South Metro Small Business Development Center is offering training opportunities on how to apply. Register at [www.auroragov.org/arpagrants](http://www.auroragov.org/arpagrants) or [www.Aurora-SouthMetroSBDC.com/training](http://www.Aurora-SouthMetroSBDC.com/training).

### **Amusement Device License Under Consideration for Repeal**

As part of the City Council Red Tape Reduction Committee hearings an ordinance sponsored by Councilmember Curtis Gardner was reviewed that includes the repeal of the amusement device vendor's license. This is also known as the Coin Operated Device License. City Council provided consensus at study session on April 13th to move the ordinance forward for a formal vote. The first reading of the proposed ordinance is on June 27th where public comment is invited.

Elimination of the license would remove the requirement that business owners license billiard and arcade games. The ordinance also proposes removal of the license requirement for carnivals. Prohibitions would remain in place against

amusement devices that reimburse the operator in prizes, crypto currency or cash more than the operator put into the device as well as prohibitions against gambling devices. For example, coin pushers dispensing quarters are prohibited under state law as a gambling device. However, crane games are exempted from the prohibitions in the proposed ordinance as are amusement centers where prizes for cumulative play do not exceed the value played on the devices.

### **Proposed Reduction of Liquor Store Spacing**

Also reviewed by the City Council Red Tape Reduction Committee was the spacing between liquor stores that is in the city's zoning code. The committee approved forwarding an ordinance for full council consideration that would reduce the spacing between new liquor stores from 2,000 to 1,500 feet to be consistent with state law. The first reading of this ordinance by City Council is June 27th and public comment is welcome.

### **End of Registered Manager Background Checks**

Governor Polis signed House Bill 22-1415 which eliminates the requirement for background checks for registered managers of hotel /restaurants, taverns and lodging and entertainment establishments. The bill also eliminated the requirement to notify licensing authorities within five days when a manager leaves. However, licensees still need to report a change in manager within 30 days.

To ensure the change does not make it easier to hide ownership interests, the City's Licensing Division will be taking a close look at agreements with managers of businesses when they are not on payroll as a W-2 employee or when a manager demonstrates they may have a financial interest in the business. Anyone with more than a 10% financial interest in the licensed business needs to be disclosed and be of good moral character. Failure to disclose an ownership interest is a violation of the liquor code. Within the past year, an applicant was charged with several felonies for attempting to use forged documents to conceal an ownership interest.

### **Liquor Application Processing**

Due to staffing issues at the State Liquor Enforcement Division, we continue to experience time frames of up to 12 weeks for State reviews of liquor license applications, transfers, and renewals. Submit liquor renewals early and online. The City's liquor portal is the best way for everybody to keep track of applications. If you want to meet us in person, please call ahead as we only have two staff that handle liquor licenses among other licenses and we have over 500 of them in the city.

### **Quick Links: Outdoor Dining, Takeout Permits**

For more information about temporary modifications of premises and things to consider, find more information here:

[Guide for Temporary Outdoor Restaurant and Retail](#)

Takeout and delivery permits from the state are required for on-premises establishments that will allow takeout and/or deliver. Form DR8496:

<https://sbg.colorado.gov/liquor-forms-by-title>. There is no city fee or form for

### **Good Things To Know**

1. Raffles and pay to play bingos require a State License issued by the Secretary of State's office to non-profits.
2. City code requires the immediate reporting of acts of disorderly conduct or criminal activity in and around the business to the police department. Licensees can be held responsible for conduct of patrons in the vicinity of the business especially if it is due to over service of alcohol.
3. Liquor licensed businesses cannot sell to anyone that is visibly intoxicated. Ensure staff obtains responsible vendor training.
4. Aurora's sales tax applies recreation services and admissions such as cover charges, juke boxes, and billiards. If you pay someone for bar trivia, the bar should also be paying sales or use tax.

### **Other Aurora Newsletters**

The city also has several other newsletters that you may be interested in that you can sign up for at the following links:

[https://www.auroragov.org/city\\_hall/media\\_\\_\\_news\\_updates/newsletters](https://www.auroragov.org/city_hall/media___news_updates/newsletters)

and one specifically for businesses at

<https://www.AuroraGov.org/BusinessEmails>.