

RESOLUTION NO. 126-20

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND,
CALIFORNIA SUPPORTING AMENDMENTS TO STATE ALCOHOL REGULATION
TO ENABLE OVERSATURATED COMMUNITIES TO REGULATE THE SALE OF
ALCOHOL TO MITIGATE NEGATIVE HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPACTS**

WHEREAS, the Twenty-first Amendment to the United States Constitution uplifted the alcohol ban during the Prohibition era and granted states the sole power to make and regulate laws related to alcohol, thus limiting the power at the local level; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, an estimated 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes annually, putting alcohol in the top three preventable causes of death; and

WHEREAS, research shows that drinking alcohol before the age of 15 can increase the likelihood of an individual developing an alcohol dependency by four times; and

WHEREAS, decades of racialized zoning policies created a landscape that contributes to alcohol abuse and alcohol-tied crime that can hinder livelihoods, limiting the potential of residents and denying them their right to live in a healthy, clean, and safe community; and

WHEREAS, Richmond’s landscape was originally built on housing laws and policies that were inherently racist, allowing a high influx of alcohol establishments into these newly classified “industrialized zones” – decisions which should be revisited and scrutinized; and

WHEREAS, high alcohol outlet density is a key environmental factor associated with increased crime, including violent crime, and Richmond has one of the highest numbers of off-sale alcohol retailers in Contra Costa County; and

WHEREAS, University of California research suggests that higher single serve alcoholic beverage availability is linked to an increase in violent crime and Richmond liquor stores have been found to occupy 58% of refrigerator space with single serve alcoholic beverages; and

WHEREAS, between May 2017 and April 2018, 5,929 calls for service were made to just 10 liquor stores in Richmond for crimes within 500 feet, 114 of which were violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, in Contra Costa County, alcohol is the most used substance among youth, with 5% of WCCUSD’s seventh grade students reporting consuming alcohol in the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS, Richmond youth frequent convenience stores for snacks and non-alcoholic beverages but are nevertheless exposed to higher amounts of alcohol and advertising and have greater access to cheap alcoholic beverages than other youth in Contra Costa County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond is committed to dismantling oppressive systems previously built that negatively impact the health of the community and supports efforts by Discovering the Realities of Our Community youth and the West Contra Costa County Alcohol Policy Coalition to advocate for local control of alcohol outlets in areas of oversaturation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council supports amendments to state alcohol regulation to enable oversaturated communities to regulate the sale of alcohol to mitigate negative health and safety impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Newsom, Senator Skinner, and Assembly Member Wicks.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held November 10, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Myrick, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt.
NOES: None.
ABSTENTIONS: None.
ABSENT: Councilmember Willis.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

THOMAS K. BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

TERESA STRICKER
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 126-20**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on November 11, 2020.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond