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**TO:** Nicholas C. Mimms, PE, City Manager

**THROUGH:** Jennifer Hofmeister, AICP, LCAM, Planning Director

**FROM:** Rebeca A. Guerra, AICP, LEED-AP, CPD, Assistant Planning Director

**RE:** Distance Requirements for Alcoholic Beverage Sales

**MEETING DATE:** December 9, 2019

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The City of Fort Pierce, through Chapter 3 Alcoholic Beverages of the City's Code of Ordinances, has established minimum distance requirements for the consumption of alcoholic beverages on or off-premises. As part of these requirements, restaurants, bar/lounges, nightclubs, liquor stores, and grocery stores are identified in order to determine eligibility for obtaining licensing for alcoholic beverage sale and/or consumption. The minimum distances delineated within Section 3-7 of the Code range from 500 feet to 1,600 feet. There are no distance requirements, however, between liquor stores and grocery stores and another licensed establishment. Relevant sections of Chapter 3 have been attached as part of this item.

For the conference agenda discussion, staff has researched three (3) counties and 11 cities to ascertain what distance requirements, if any, neighboring municipalities have for the consumption of alcoholic beverages on or off-premises. The research has found that there is no uniform standard for the regulation of this use, nor is there a consistent manner in which municipalities look at surrounding uses.

A study of existing alcoholic establishments within the City of Fort Pierce revealed that the majority of licenses issued are along major arterial roadways, namely US Highway 1, Orange Avenue, Okeechobee Road, Avenue D, and 25<sup>th</sup> Street. Similar review of the location of existing schools and churches found that these uses are widespread and do not reflect the same manner of clustering along major arterial roadways. Copies of maps showing these locations have also been attached.

The Planning Department is currently studying the Orange Avenue and Avenue D corridors in an effort to codify two (2) distinct Overlay Districts within Chapter 22, Zoning, of the Code of Ordinances. As part of these future Overlays, staff is examining the potential for eliminating the minimum distance requirements for the consumption of alcoholic beverages on or off-premises in much the same way as has already been done for the Downtown Business and Entertainment Overlay District.

**Attachments:**

City of Fort Pierce Requirements  
County/City Comparisons  
Map: Alcohol Establishments  
Map: Churches  
Map: Schools