



305 Fahm Street
Savannah, GA 31401

July 7, 2023

Alcohol Stakeholders,

In a continuing effort to improve the quality of life for the residents, tourists, and business owners in The City of Savannah, we would like to invite you to an education session regarding recent revisions to the City of Savannah alcohol ordinance. Below are some dates where you can engage with City of Savannah staff as well as fellow stakeholders:

- July 18th, 2023 (4pm-6pm)- PARC (425 Pennsylvania Avenue Savannah, GA 31404)
- July 19th, 2023 (5pm- 7pm)- Coastal Georgia Center (305 Fahm Street)
- July 20th, 2023 (1-3pm) –Southwest Chatham Library Auditorium- 14097 Abercorn Street Savannah, GA 31419

The recent alcohol ordinance revisions are specified in the below code sections. We will discuss each revision in education sessions:

Sec. 6-1205. - License required.

(e)(2)- Alcohol Review Committee.

Procedure. Prior to submitting an application for an alcoholic beverage license, a prospective applicant shall complete and submit the Alcohol Review Form, which may be found at www.savannahga.gov/alcoholreview shall also be accompanied with the fee specified in the city's annual Revenue Ordinance. Alcohol Review Forms shall be completed no less than 14 days prior to the standing Alcohol Review Committee meeting, which schedule shall be posted on the City's website at www.savannahga.gov/alcoholreview.

The prospective applicant shall appear at the Alcohol Review Committee meeting he/she has selected along with all required documentation. The Alcohol Review Committee shall review all such material and determine whether the prospective applicant has met all requirements. If so, he/she will be provided with an application to apply for an alcoholic beverage license, which shall be completed and submitted by the applicant no later than ten business days after the Alcohol meeting together with all applicable fees. At that time, the applicant shall receive a date upon which his/her application will be considered by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah.

Sec. 6-1209. - License conditions and restrictions.

t. Class D and Class E licensees may conduct *tasting events* subject to the following requirements:

1. No less than 14 days prior to conducting any such event, the licensee shall apply for and receive a permit from the city's Revenue Department;
2. Said licensee may serve no more than eight ounces of a malt beverage, five ounces of wine or one point five ounces of distilled spirits at one time per person and shall serve no more than three tastings per person and per category of alcoholic beverage;
3. A licensee shall conduct no more than 52 tastings per year;
4. A tasting event may last no more than four hours; and
5. The licensee may serve only one type of alcoholic beverage, either malt beverage, wine, or distilled spirits at event provided no more than four packages are open at any one time.

u. Bottle establishments; brown bagging.

1. It shall be unlawful for the operator of any establishment that does not possess a license or permit issued under this article to serve, sell or keep for sale alcoholic beverages including unlicensed private clubs, public establishments, or places of business to allow any person to bring, keep, dispense, or sell any alcoholic beverages on said premises for use of consumption on premises.
2. It shall be unlawful for any person to bring, pour, or serve his/her own alcoholic beverage ("brown bagging") into any non-licensed establishment.

w. Licensees required to obtain a transitional permit (Class K) shall:

1. Allow no patron under the age of 21 on the premises during transitional operations: those hours where food menu service is partially or fully suspended;
2. Submit a revised occupant load reflecting the number of allowed patrons during transitional operations;
3. Submit a security plan in compliance with the provisions of this article; and
4. Install and maintain, in good working order, security cameras with audio and video capabilities within the licensed premises. Cameras shall be positioned to fully monitor and capture footage of all means of ingress and egress to the establishment utilized by patrons, stationary locations where monetary customer transactions occur, and at bars where alcoholic beverages are publicly served.

Sec. 6-1215.

Employee training regulations for retail consumption dealers, alcoholic beverage caterers and all others dispensing alcohol for consumption on premises.

- a. Every Class A, C and J licensee shall require that all persons employed as managers, servers, bartenders, doorpersons, private security guards, or any other employee, agent or subcontractor with the responsibility for serving, mixing or dispensing alcoholic beverages for on premise consumption complete server training, which training shall include, at a minimum, alcohol awareness training and human trafficking awareness and other topics, as may from time-to-time be identified by the city manager and made available online free of charge. Within seven days of hire, each such person shall complete the required training and obtain a server training permit card, which shall be valid for five years, from the city's Revenue Department via an online application. Every Class D and E licensee shall require that all persons employed and involved in the direct sale of alcohol to customers complete alcohol awareness training as specified by the city manager. Within seven days of hire, each such person shall complete the required training and obtain a server training permit card from the city's Revenue Department.
- b. The server training shall be completed not later than seven days after commencement of his/her employment and updated every two years from the date of issuance and shall be renewed no less than 30 days prior to expiration.
- c. All licensees shall maintain on the licensed premises a register of all employees required to attend mandatory server training. Proof of completion of server training issued by the course-provider shall be maintained on the licensed premises. Upon the request of a Savannah Police Department officer, a city deputy marshal or any other city code enforcement officer, the licensee or manager on duty must present a register indicating employees on duty required to have server training and supporting documentation. Such records and register may be kept by a third party vendor who shall provide on-line access to employee training records to the city upon request.
- d. All licensees shall report to the Savannah Police Department any citation, conviction or administrative sanction imposed upon them by any court or governmental agency within ten days of the permit-holder's receipt of notification in writing to ABCunit@savannahga.gov regarding the adjudication of the occurrence, incident or event giving rise to a citation.

Effective, **July 31, 2023**, The City of Savannah will increase its enforcement of the above code sections of the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. We would like to thank those of you who are already in compliance and look forward to continued cooperation by all alcoholic beverage establishments.

Thank you,

Judee Jones, Revenue Manager

