

Proposed Changes to Alcohol Variance Rules

October 23, 2011



At the October 26th meeting, the City Council will be voting to change the criteria for granting variances to businesses selling alcohol within 300 feet of protected uses such as schools, churches, and hospitals. The current rules allow a variance to be granted for a general merchandise or food store over 50,000 square feet. The first proposed change will allow a variance to be granted for a general merchandise or food store over 30,000 square feet. A second amendment would also allow the Council to grant variances from any protected use if the applicant has a wine and beer retailer's permit with a food and beverage certificate, or if the applicant has a mixed beverage permit with a food and beverage certificate. Finally, the last amendment would allow a variance to be granted if the applicant has a certificate of occupancy for a restaurant without drive-in or drive through service.

DHL shares the concerns of some of our member neighborhoods about these changes which will permit more alcohol-selling establishments close to protected properties. DHL encourages our members to read the details of the proposed changes in the agenda for the October 26th meeting. It is item #41 in the [agenda](#): "An ordinance amending Section 6-4 of Chapter 6 of the Dallas City Code to amend the standards for approval of applications for variances from the spacing requirements for alcohol permits."

Members with concerns about the changes should contact their respective councilmembers as well as DHL. If a significant number of our members desire, DHL can coordinate a response to this issue.