



CITY OF AURORA, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE NO. 026-018
DATE OF PASSAGE March 24, 2026

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 "Alcoholic Liquor", Sec. 6-2 "Definitions" and Sec. 6-8 "Classifications" of the City of Aurora Code of Ordinances.

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora has a population of more than 25,000 persons and is, therefore, a home rule unit under subsection (a) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and

WHEREAS, subject to said Section, a home rule unit may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated Farnsworth Bilter Entertainment District has been reserved since 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Farnsworth Bilter Entertainment District has now been defined; and

WHEREAS, the designation of the Farnsworth Bilter Entertainment District will allow for a more streamlined and uniform liquor licensing process for the licensee(s) in the District and city staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Aurora, Illinois, as follows:

Section One: That Chapter 6 of the City of Aurora Code of Ordinances shall be and hereby is amended as set forth in Exhibit A.

Section Two: That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect, and shall be controlling, upon its passage and approval.

Section Three: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of any such conflict.

Section Four: That any section or provision of this ordinance that is construed to be invalid or void shall not affect the remaining sections or provisions which shall remain in full force and effect thereafter.

ORDINANCE NO. 024-018

LEGISTAR NO. 24-0098

PASSED AND APPROVED ON: March 24, 2026

AYES 12 NAYS 0 NOT VOTING 0 ABSENT 0

ALDERMAN	Vote
Alderman Barreiro, Ward 1	yes
Alderwoman Garza, Ward 2	yes
Alderman Mesiacos, Ward 3	yes
Alderman Núñez, Ward 4	yes
Alderman Franco, Ward 5	yes
Alderman Saville, Ward 6	yes
Alderman Bañuelos, Ward 7	yes
Alderwoman Smith, Ward 8	yes
Alderman Bugg, Ward 9	yes
Alderwoman Baid, Ward 10	yes
Alderman Larson, At-Large	yes
Alderman White, At-Large	yes

ATTEST:


City Clerk Jennifer Stallings


Mayor John Laesch

1 **Sec 6-2 Definitions**

2 Casino strolling endorsement is permitted only in an indoor or
3 contained area on casino property, excluding all parking decks and
4 parking lots, and licensed entertainment district previously
5 approved by the city council. Licensees with a casino strolling
6 endorsement are required to actively and passively monitor alcohol
7 consumption by customers. All alcohol consumed at a casino with a
8 strolling endorsement must be purchased from or provided by the
9 casino or liquor licensed vendors in the casino, including sales
10 of alcohol via room service, spa, in-room mini-bar and on-site
11 convenience sales. Video monitoring is required at all times during
12 which the licensed establishment is open to the public. Licensee
13 must maintain BASSET certified employees to monitor the customer
14 strolling areas and guard against over service, underage service,
15 as well as any other applicable regulations. Any licensee that
16 applies for this endorsement must go through the city council
17 process for approval.

18
19 Casino barbershop, salon or spa alcohol service endorsement
20 authorizes an on-site consumption liquor licensee in the
21 Farnsworth Bilter Entertainment District to allow the on-site
22 consumption of alcohol containing less than 15% ABV by its patrons
23 who are twenty-one (21) and over when provided in conjunction with

the patron's purchase of a package of services offered by the business. This endorsement allows the licensee to provide patrons with no more than two (2) individual servings of alcohol per person per day as an incidental part of the purchased package. A Basset trained employee of the licensee must be present at all times that alcohol is consumed.

Farnsworth & Bilter entertainment district~~:- Reserved.~~ is the area west of Farnsworth Avenue, south of Bilter Road, east of Church Road and north of Premium Outlet Boulevard (casino parcel only). The specific rules and regulations for this district are defined in section 6-8 of this Chapter.

On-site Consumption Package Sales means the sale of alcohol in packaged form for consumption on-site.

Sec 6-8 Classification Of Licenses

(a) *Classification of liquor licenses.* There shall be the following classification of licenses:

1. Class A - Packaged Sales.

a. Authorizes the licensee to sell to the general public who are twenty-one (21) and above alcohol in its original packages for consumption off the premises where sold. Nothing in this subsection shall be

1 construed as prohibiting the sale of packages
2 containing six (6) single containers of beer,
3 including such packages consisting of various single
4 containers of beer chosen by the customer.

5 b. E-Commerce delivery store, convenience store,
6 farmer's market, florist, gas station, grocery store,
7 hotel, liquor store, package sales beer/wine only,
8 package sales gas station, and specialty basket as
9 herein defined in section 6-2 shall have a Class A -
10 Packaged sales license.

11 c. Each licensee shall follow any restrictions set
12 forth in section 6-2 for the type of license they
13 have.

14 d. No establishments which sell gasoline may sell
15 liquor, only beer and wine.

16 e. Available endorsements for some Class A - Package
17 Sales license holders are: gas station, drive-thru
18 and farmer's market.

19 f. Video gaming on the premises is not permitted.

20 2. Class B - On-Site Consumption.

21 A. Authorizes the licensee to sell to members of the
22 general public who are twenty-one (21) and above
23 beer, wine, or alcoholic liquor by the drink for

1 consumption on premises in conjunction with the
2 sale of food for consumption on the premises.

3 B. Service of alcoholic liquor shall be only during
4 the time that food is prepared on the premises and
5 is available to be served and a menu, approved by
6 the liquor commissioner is in effect, unless
7 otherwise specified in section 6-2.

8 C. Each licensee shall follow any restrictions set
9 forth in section. 6-2 for the type of license they
10 have.

11 D. Available endorsements for Class B - On-Site
12 Consumption license holders are: package sales,
13 video gaming (limited), and outdoor seating.

14 E. Video Gaming will not be permitted on premises
15 unless the licensee meets the definition of Full
16 Service Restaurant in section 6-2 and the
17 requirements of Chapter 8, Article IV, Division 5,
18 entitled "Video Gaming."

19 3. Class C - Specialty On-Site Consumption.

20 A. Authorizes the licensee to sell to members of the
21 general public who are twenty-one (21) and above
22 beer, wine, or alcoholic liquor by the drink for
23 consumption on premises. Food service regulations
24 for a Class C license are less restrictive for

1 certain licensee types as described in section 6-

2 2.

3 B. Each licensee shall follow any restrictions set
4 forth in section 6-2 for the license they have.

5 C. Licensees with Class C - Specialty On-Site
6 Consumption can apply for the following
7 endorsements: package sales.

8 D. Video gaming on the premises is not permitted.

9 4. Class D - Specialty By Area.

10 A. Downtown Core Entertainment District.

11 1. In addition to the other categories of
12 licenses authorized under this chapter, the
13 local liquor control commissioner may issue
14 Class A, B, and C (excluding gas stations and
15 new licenses for liquor stores) licenses
16 authorizing the sale or service of alcoholic
17 liquor at Downtown Core Entertainment District
18 venues in accordance with this section. Such
19 license will be known as Class D - Downtown
20 Core Entertainment District License, as
21 defined in section 6-2, and any person holding
22 such a license shall be known as a Class D -
23 Downtown Core Entertainment District licensee.

1 2. Licensees in the Downtown Core Entertainment
2 District can apply for the following
3 endorsements: package sales and outdoor
4 seating.

5 3. Food service regulations for a Class D -
6 Downtown Core Entertainment District
7 licensees are less restrictive for certain
8 licensee types as described in section 6-2.

9 B. Downtown Fringe Entertainment District

10 1. In addition to the other categories of
11 licenses authorized under this chapter, the
12 local liquor control commissioner may issue
13 Class A, B, and C (excluding gas stations and
14 new licenses for liquor stores) licenses
15 authorized the sale or service of alcoholic
16 liquor at Downtown Fringe Entertainment
17 District venues in accordance with this
18 section. Such license will be known as Class
19 D - Downtown Fringe Entertainment District
20 License, as defined in section 6-2, and any
21 person holding such a license shall be known
22 as a Class D - Downtown Fringe Entertainment
23 District licensee.

1 2. Licensees in Downtown Fringe Entertainment
2 District can apply for the following
3 endorsements: package sales and outdoor
4 seating.

5 3. Seat requirements: The license shall also be
6 available for premises defined as restaurants
7 herein that have a minimum seating capacity of
8 thirty (30) seats on the same floor or level,
9 inclusive of the seating around a bar used for
10 alcoholic liquor consumption.

11 4. Food service regulations for a Class D -
12 Downtown Fringe Entertainment District
13 licensees are less restrictive for certain
14 licensee types as described in section 6-2.

15 C. Fox Valley Mall Entertainment District

16 1. In addition to the other categories of
17 licenses authorized under this chapter, the
18 local liquor control commissioner may issue
19 Class A, B, and C (excluding gas stations)
20 licenses authorized the sale or service of
21 alcoholic liquor at Fox Valley Mall
22 Entertainment District venues in accordance
23 with this section. Such license will be known
24 as Class D - Fox Valley Mall Entertainment

District License, as defined in section. 6-2, and any person holding such a license shall be known as a Class D - Fox Valley Mall Entertainment District licensee.

2. Licensees in the Fox Valley Mall Entertainment District can apply for the following endorsements: package sales, outdoor seating and strolling.

3. Video Gaming will not be permitted on premises unless the licensee meets the definition of Full Service Restaurant in section 6-2 and the requirements of Chapter 8, Article IV, Division 5 entitled "Video Gaming."

D. Farnsworth Bilter Entertainment District.

1. ~~Reserved.~~ The local liquor control commissioner may issue on-site consumption, specialty on-site consumption and package sales liquor licenses authorizing the sale or service of alcoholic liquor at Farnsworth Bilter Entertainment District venues in accordance with this section. Such license will be known as Class D - Farnsworth Bilter Entertainment District License, as defined in section 6-2, and any person holding such a

1 license shall be known as a Class D -
2 Farnsworth Bilter Entertainment District
3 licensee with designated allowed sales
4 identified on their liquor license (i.e. on-
5 site consumption, specialty on-site
6 consumption and package sales). Specific
7 license designations when outside of the
8 "Casino" shall abide by the hours as stated
9 herein for Class A, Class B or Class C liquor
10 licenses.

11 2. Licensees in the Farnsworth Bilter
12 Entertainment District can apply for the
13 following endorsements: Casino Strolling,
14 Casino Barbershop, Salon or Spa Alcohol
15 Service Endorsement, and Outdoor Seating.

16 (b) *Number of licenses, endorsements and required fees.* The
17 city council shall from time-to-time by resolution determine
18 the fees and fix the number of licenses and endorsements
19 available in each classification.

20 (c) *Conversion.* On August 31, 2020, the commissioner shall
21 convert all valid licenses authorizing the sale of alcoholic
22 liquor at retail as follows:

23 1. *Licenses for Packaged Sales.* The commissioner shall
24 convert all valid licenses issued under any previous

city ordinances authorizing the retail sale of alcoholic liquor in original packages for consumption off the premises where sold shall be converted to Class A licenses under this ordinance.

2. Licenses for On-Site Consumption. The commissioner shall convert all valid licenses issued under any previous city ordinance authorizing the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises where sold shall be converted to Class B licenses under this ordinance. Further, and notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, the commissioner shall, at the time of the conversion, grant a video gaming endorsement for any Class B license converted under this paragraph if, and only if, a video gaming terminal authorized by the Video Gaming Act is lawfully operated the premises embraced by said license on the effective date of this ordinance.

3. Conversion Class C License. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) and (b) above, the commissioner shall convert any valid Class F1 license to a Class C license.

4. Number of licenses upon conversion. The maximum aggregate number of Class A, Class B, and Class C licenses available at the time of the conversions

1 contemplated herein shall be equal the total number of
2 licenses eligible for conversion. Upon conversion, the
3 number of licenses available in each class shall be equal
4 to the number of licenses converted to each class.

5
6
7 **Sec 6-28 Hours Of Operation**

8 (a) On-Site Consumption. Businesses licensed to sell alcoholic
9 liquor for consumption on the licensed premises may sell or
10 permit to be sold for consumption on the licensed premises,
11 alcoholic liquor only between the following hours, unless
12 otherwise provided:

13 (1) Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
14 the following morning;

15 (2) Friday and Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the
16 following morning;

17 (3) Sunday from 9:00 a.m. (with the service of food) to
18 1:00 a.m. the following morning;

19 (4) Thanksgiving Eve from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. on
20 Thanksgiving morning; and

21 (5) New Year's Eve from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. on New
22 Year's Day morning.

(6) Businesses holding a Breakfast and Lunch Service Only Endorsement may serve alcohol on Sundays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(b) Off-Site Consumption. Businesses licensed to sell alcoholic liquor for consumption off of the licensed premises may sell or permit to be sold for consumption off of the licensed premises, alcoholic liquor only between the following hours, unless otherwise provided:

(1) Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.;

(2) Friday and Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. the following morning;

(3) Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight.

(c) Licensees located in the River Edge Redevelopment Plus Zone shall only sell or permit to be sold alcoholic liquor, beer and wine beginning at 9:00 a.m. Sunday through Friday, and beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday.

(d) Due to the primarily entertainment and exclusive nature of this use, ~~the Casino Facility licensee~~ licensees in the Farnsworth Bilter Entertainment District, may sell or permit to be sold or consumed on or in its licensed premises, alcoholic liquor as follows:

(1) A casino with an "owners license", as defined by the Illinois Gambling Act, 230 ILCS 10/4, may sell or permit to be sold or consumed, alcohol in compliance with the State of

1 Illinois Liquor Control Act, ~~and~~ the Illinois ~~Gaming Board~~
2 ~~Rules Gambling Act~~, 230 ILCS 10/11(1.5) and the Illinois
3 ~~Administrative Code Section 3000.930.~~

4 (2) Class D liquor licensees in the Farnsworth Bilter
5 Entertainment District not subject to control as a casino
6 with an "owners license" may sell or permit to be sold or
7 consumed, alcohol pursuant to Sec (a) herein.

8 (e) New Year's Eve/Day Extension of Business Hours.

9 (1) All licensees licensed for on-site consumption may
10 automatically remain open on New Year's Eve until 2:00
11 a.m. on New Year's Day.

12 (2) All licensees licensed for on-site consumption may
13 submit an application to remain open and sell alcohol
14 for on-site consumption between 2:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m.
15 on the morning of New Year's Day; provided that such
16 request shall be subject to the following requirements:

17 (a) A written application for extension of business
18 hours shall be submitted to the local liquor
19 control commissioner on or before December 15 each
20 year for which permission is sought.

21 (b) A non-refundable fee shall be submitted with the
22 application for extension of business hours.

23 (c) An approved licensee shall close and secure the
24 entrance doors between 2:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. on

1 the morning of New Year's Day, and not allow new
2 customers to enter the premises after 2:00 a.m. The
3 licensee shall stop serving alcohol at 3:30 a.m. on
4 the morning of New Year's Day.

5 (d) New Year's Eve/Day extension of business hours
6 shall not be granted for those locations primarily
7 zoned residential under subsection 6-13(c).

8 (e) The local liquor control commissioner may
9 discretionarily deny such request from any
10 establishment that has had its liquor license
11 suspended within the past year or for any
12 establishment that currently owes the city money or
13 has been found to be in violation of any city codes
14 within the past twelve (12) months. Establishments
15 with active alcohol-related public nuisance
16 abatement plans will not be eligible for the
17 extension of hours.

18 (f) Discretionary Extension of Business Hours for Special
19 Dates.

20 (1) All licensees licensed for on-site consumption may
21 submit an application to the local liquor control
22 commissioner to open and sell alcohol for on-site
23 consumption one (1) hour early and to extend closing
24 hours by one (1) hour per the hours as set forth in

1 section 6-28(a). Each licensed establishment may be
2 granted extended hours for special dates up to two (2)
3 times per calendar year. Licensees are free to request
4 any date of the year to apply as a Special Date. A New
5 Year's Eve extension through 4:00 a.m., if granted, does
6 not count toward a licensee's limit of two (2) special
7 date extensions per calendar year.

8 (2)The local liquor control commissioner may deny such
9 request from any establishment that has had its liquor
10 license suspended within the past year or for any
11 establishment that currently owes the city money or has
12 been found to be in violation of any city codes within
13 the past twelve (12) months. Establishments with active
14 alcohol-related public nuisance abatement plans will not
15 be eligible for the extension of hours. The local liquor
16 control commissioner may discretionarily deny such
17 request.

18 (g)After Hours. No person, except peace officers in the
19 performance of law enforcement duties, the licensee and his
20 employees or agents actually working, shall be present in a
21 licensed premises between the hour of closing and the hour of
22 opening as established in this section; provided, that if the
23 license is issued for a business which is not predominantly
24 for the sale of alcoholic liquor, such as hotels, recreational

1 facilities, bowling alleys, restaurants, private/social clubs
2 or retail stores, such licensee may keep his place of business
3 open, subject to the provision that no sale of alcohol or
4 consumption of alcohol shall be permitted on the premises
5 during the hours prohibited, and subject to all other
6 applicable state and local laws.