


## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: 24 EXPRESS SUP AMENDMENTS

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**ISSUE:** Amendments to the existing Special Use Permit for 24 Express, located at 4007 Mt. Vernon Avenue.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council approve amendments to the existing SUP for 24 Express to:

- (1) Allow alcohol sales until midnight on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with off-duty police or sheriff deputies providing security from 6 pm until midnight; and
- (2) Post clear no loitering signs on the property and require that 24 Express execute an agreement with the Alexandria Police Department that allows APD to enforce no loitering on the property; and
- (3) Return to the Planning Commission and City Council in six months for review of the SUP.

**BACKGROUND:** City Council, at their meeting on September 9, 2008, received a report from staff indicating the status of the effort to institute a voluntary limitation on alcohol sales for merchants in the Arlandria area. At a prior Council meeting on June 24, staff was directed to pursue a voluntary limitation on alcohol sales so that other merchants' sales would be consistent with the 11 pm limitation that was recommended for 24 Express. The voluntary limitation was for area merchants to cease off premises alcohol sales at 11 pm instead of midnight. Four other merchants besides the 24 Express were requested to participate, however only two of the merchants (CVS and Giant) agreed. The other two merchants, the 7-11s on West Glebe Road and Mt. Vernon Avenue, did not agree to the limitation. Based on this, staff recommended that 24 Express be allowed to sell alcohol until midnight if they provided off-duty police or sheriff deputies as security from 6 pm until midnight, seven days per week. Such security is already in place for the current 11 pm closing time.

An alternate proposal was put forward at the September 9 Council meeting that would allow alcohol sales until midnight just on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with a requirement for the use of off-duty police or sheriff deputies on those days. During the remainder of the week, from Monday through Thursday, the sale of alcohol at the 24 Express would cease at 11 pm.

**DISCUSSION:** The alternate proposal seems to be a fair compromise between an 11 pm limitation, seven days a week, and allowing sales until midnight, seven days a week, with off-duty police/sheriff deputies each day from 6 pm to midnight. In addition, the six month review will determine how well this arrangement for an extended hour for alcohol sales has worked and if it needs to be modified. On the issue of loitering, with the proper placement of signs, vigilance by the store owner/operator and enforcement by APD, loitering on the property should be reduced.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact to the proposed amendments.

**STAFF:**

Richard Josephson, Deputy Director, Planning and Zoning  
David P. Baker, Police Chief