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MEMO

TO: Elinor Carbone, Mayor
Ordinance Committee of City Council
FROM: Victor M. Muschell, Corp. Counsel
DATE: September 25, 2020
RE: Amendment to Ordinance regarding Alcohol at City Parks and Grounds

As you know the City has completed the development of Franklin Plaza with some minor exceptions. It won't be long before it will be used for a variety of civic functions. The park and Rec commission is preparing the protocols for use by City agencies and by the public.

It is anticipated that there may be events scheduled at the Plaza that may include using alcoholic beverages. However our current ordinance on the subject will be in conflict with that use. The current Ordinance Sec. 75-2 provides:

Except as permitted by [§ 75-3](#) hereof, no person shall consume or possess with intent to consume or sell or offer for sale or barter or exchange any alcoholic liquor within the limits of any public highway, public park or public ground as they exist within the City of Torrington. For purposes of this section, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the consumption of alcoholic liquor in motor vehicles parked on said premises shall also be deemed a violation hereof.

The ordinance currently provides for two exceptions: Sec. 75-3 A. for Fuessenich Park, and 75-3 B. for outdoor dining on restaurant sidewalks.

In order to obtain the greatest use of our new facility, Franklin Plaza, it seems reasonable to allow alcoholic beverages on a limited basis and under rules established by the Park and Rec Commission and or the City Council.

In that light I recommend an amendment to the current ordinance by adding an additional exception using language similar to the following:

75-3 C. Persons may offer, sell, possess, and/or consume alcoholic beverages at Franklin Plaza in accordance with the Connecticut Liquor Control Act, § 30-1 et seq. of the Connecticut General Statutes and by obtaining a permit issued in accordance with regulations established by the Park and Rec Commission and/or City Council.