

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY
BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MAINTAINING STATE AND
LOCAL REGULATION OF ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL**

WHEREAS, the citizens of Mecklenburg County voted to permit the sale of spiritous liquor and other alcohol through the establishment of a local Alcoholic Beverage Control Board , which is under the control system of the state of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, for decades, local Alcoholic Beverage Control Boards have provided a variety of choices, and a controlled distribution and sales environment that is safe; and

WHEREAS, local Alcoholic Beverage Control Boards provide counties, cities, and towns with additional annual revenues to invest in local programs, many of which are funds targeting public health issues such as alcohol addiction education and rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, according to research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Guide to Community Preventive Services*, regulating the availability of alcohol, including maintaining limits on the number of days and hours when alcohol can be sold, is a strategy that works to reduce excessive alcohol use and related health and social problems and there is strong evidence that privatization of retail alcohol sales leads to increases in excessive alcohol consumption; and

WHEREAS, according to other studies, privatization is often associated with an increase in sales outlets which correlates with high levels of alcoholism and violence, increased alcohol-related injury, crashes, and increased underage drinking; and

WHEREAS, Alcoholic Beverage Control Boards have established a ZERO TOLERANCE regarding alcohol sales to minors and employees are terminated for violations; and

WHEREAS, studies show that communities with greater access to liquor have a higher level of underage access to alcohol; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the North Carolina General Assembly, House Bill 971 (Modern Licensure Model for Alcohol Control) which proposes to privatize the retail sale and wholesale distribution of liquor, with businesses being allowed to ship liquor directly to individuals in or out of the state; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly's non-partisan Program Evaluation Division (PED) was directed to examine whether other systems of alcohol beverage control, including privatized systems are appropriate for North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the PED report "Changing How North Carolina Controls Liquor Sales Has Operational, Regulatory, and Financial Ramifications": (1) did not recommend privatization; (2) found that among southeastern states, North Carolina collects the most revenue per gallon of liquor sold, has the lowest outlet density, and has the second lowest per capita consumption; and

(3) the PED expects retail liquor consumption to increase by 20% with privatization based on an additional 1,000 outlets;

NOW therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners supports and advocates for maintaining state and local regulation of alcohol beverage control in North Carolina.

Adopted this the _____ day of August 2019.

George Dunlap
Chair