

05269 Report of the Vending Oversight Committee and Madison Police Department to be submitted to the ALRC, PSRB, and the Common Council by March 1, 2007.

This is an ordinance amendment to 9.13 by Ald. Austin King, adopted in April of 2006, and not first presented to the Vending Oversight Committee (VOC). The purpose of the amendment was to allow restaurant patrons to carry out alcoholic beverages to sidewalk cafes on a temporary, trial basis from April 15, 2006 through December 31, 2006. When this amendment went to the Common Council, Ald. Judy Olson added the following condition:

“A report prepared by the VOC, with input from the Madison Police Dept., shall be submitted to the ALRC [Alcohol License Review Panel], PSRB [Public Safety Review Board], and Common Council by March 1, 2007, analyzing the impact of this temporary repeal on the operation of the sidewalk cafes.”

After inviting information and comments from downtown Police, the Street Vending Coordinator, the Street Vending Monitor, and Vending Oversight Committee Members, there appears to be little or no impact on the operation of sidewalk cafes.

There were but two comments, as follows:

Downtown Police Officer Meredith York:

“I have had no issues with the temporary ordinance all year. It has gone quite smoothly.”

Ald. Cindy Thomas, Vending Oversight Committee member, suggested a report from all restaurant owners and from the Street Vending Coordinator. As Street Vending Coordinator, my experience has been that when restaurant owners have a problem with any City law that pertains to the operation of their sidewalk cafe, I invariably hear about it. In this case, I have heard nothing from anyone except for the two people mentioned above.

My conclusion is: No news is good news.

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