



Administrative Report

N.5., File #19-0317

Council Action Date: 10/1/2019

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

From: MICHAEL W. WEBB, CITY ATTORNEY
KEITH KAUFFMAN, CHIEF OF POLICE

TITLE

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AN ORDINANCE FOR ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS.

INTRODUCE BY TITLE ONLY ORDINANCE NO. 3195-19, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA AMENDING REDONDO BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 1, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 1-2.03 TO MAKE VIOLATIONS OF SECTION 4-7.02(b) AND 4-35.09(b) MISDEMEANORS RATHER THAN INFRACTIONS. FOR INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The adoption of the ordinance amending Section 1-2.03 of Chapter 2, Title 1 of the Redondo Beach Municipal Code, to remove Section 4-7.02(a) prohibiting the consumption of alcoholic beverages in public places and on beaches, and Section 4-35.09(b) prohibiting the consumption of alcoholic beverages in parks from the list of violations deemed infractions rather than misdemeanors.

BACKGROUND

In response to growing public concern and community demand for action regarding nuisance related offenses, the City Attorney's Office and the Police Department are requesting the reclassification of the municipal code governing the public consumption of alcohol from an infraction to a misdemeanor.

There are approximately 208 ABC Licensed business establishments within the City of Redondo Beach, including 52 "Off-sale" establishments. There are over 600 ABC Licensed business establishments in surrounding cities, including Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Torrance and Lawndale.

From July 2018 to July 2019 the Redondo Beach Police Department arrested 2,107 people. Of these arrests, **547** were for alcohol related offenses. During that same time-period the department responded to investigate **more than 200 reports of people drinking alcohol in public**.

The current infraction penalty for these offenses does not allow the court to impose conditions of probation that serve as a deterrent to continued violations of these offenses. Many of the offenders do not possess the monetary resources necessary to pay a fine and most of them are aware of this.

This dynamic makes the issuance of citations for these infractions an ineffective tool to address a behavior that has a considerable negative impact on limited police resources and more importantly the quality of life of all people in the City of Redondo Beach.

The impact this conduct has on the community compels us to request that the Municipal Code Section be reclassified to a misdemeanor to allow prosecutors to adequately address these crimes.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance amending section 1-2.03 of Chapter 2, Title 1 of the Redondo Beach Municipal Code
2. Redline version of section 1-2.03