

## *Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc.*

### **Problems Related to Overconsumption of Alcohol Fact Sheet**

The community we create . . . the buildings, green spaces, restaurants, stores, and entertainment options. . . all of these elements influence our behavior. Sidewalks encourage walking. Recreational areas encourage outdoor activity. **The number of alcohol outlets in a neighborhood influences the amount of alcohol consumed in the area and the negative consequences that result from the overconsumption of alcohol.** As stated in CNI's process for analyzing alcohol licenses, CNI supports the granting of a reasonable number of Alcohol Licenses within its boundaries to responsible, accountable applicants. However, the number and capacity of licenses that are granted must be done with an awareness of the impacts that result.

A significant body of scholarly research links the density—the number of alcohol outlets in a community and the licensed capacity of those outlets—to a wide array of negative alcohol-related outcomes. (Britt, H., Carlin, B., Toomey, T., Wagenaar, A. 2005, Scribner, R., Cohen, D., Fisher, W., 2000)

National research links alcohol outlet density to an increase in:

- Assault rates (Reid, R., Hughey, J., Peterson, 2003)
- Violent crime rate (Zhu, D., Gorman, M., Horel, S. 2004)
- Pedestrian vehicle accidents (LaScala, E., Johnson, F., Grunewald, P.)
- Motor vehicle accidents (Grunewald, P. J., Johnson F.W., Treno, A.J., 2002 and Scribner, MacKinnon DP, Dwyer JH, 1994)

Local data also points to the significant role alcohol plays in negative behavior: The Madison Police Department reports in “Alcohol Related Violence Downtown”:

- The Central District has the highest number of alcohol fueled violence and disorder including battery, substantial battery, fights, disturbances and liquor law violations
- Based on the most recent available statistics, the Central District has:
  - 28% of total batteries
  - 30% of total disturbances
  - 43 % of total fights
  - 75% of tot liquor law violations and
  - 30% of total substantial batteries.
- In the 403 sector alone (which includes State Street) there are:

- 11% of total batteries
- 13% of total disturbances
- 25% of total fights
- 44% of tot liquor law violations and
- 15% of total substantial batteries.
- In Sector 403 over 70% of both suspects and victims are believed to have used alcohol.
- Violence and disorder are clustered around bar time
- Violence and disorder are clustered in the same locations where liquor licenses are clustered.

The high incidence of problems in the downtown district and sector 403 corresponds to the high density of alcohol licenses and capacity which is:

- Central District: Aldermanic Districts 2, 12 licenses, District 4 121 licenses, District 6 69 licenses and District 8, 36 licenses. Total number licenses for all four districts is 238.
- Police District Sector 403: 857 alcohol related police call in 2005. Charges were aggravated battery, battery, disturbance call and fight call.

In addition:

- Students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison binge drink at a rate one third higher than the national average for college students. (2005 survey reported November 26, 2005 Wisconsin State Journal)

Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc. is focusing on the alcohol problem because we want Madison Downtown to continue to be a desirable place to live and an attractive place to visit. That depends on residents' and visitors' ability to both experience a safe downtown environment...and on the perception of downtown Madison as being a safe place to be.