ORDINANCE NO. ORD-15-0011

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH IMPOSING A MORATORIUM RELATING TO THE CITY'S CURRENT ZONING CODE PROVISIONS THAT EXEMPT CERTAIN ALCOHOL RELATED SALES USES FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP) BEFORE COMMENCING OPERATIONS; DECLARING THE URGENCY THEREOF AND DECLARING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY

WHEREAS, the City's Zoning Code (Long Beach Municipal Code, Title 21 "Zoning") currently requires that many alcohol related sales uses obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) before commencement of operations. For example, in all commercial zones of the City, a CUP is required for both "off premises" and "on premises" sale of alcohol, if it is to take place within five hundred (500) feet of a zoning district allowing residential uses;

WHEREAS, the City's Zoning Code also contains several provisions that currently "exempt" certain alcohol related sales uses from the requirement to obtain a CUP (See Zoning Code Tables 32-1 and 32-1A). The Zoning Code specifically exempts the following uses from the requirement to obtain a CUP: (1) grocery stores of twenty thousand (20,000) square feet or greater; (2) a department store or florist with accessory sales of alcohol; (3) uses located more than five hundred (500) feet from residential uses; and (4) existing legal nonconforming uses. The Zoning Code gives no explanation as to why the above referenced uses are not required to go through a public vetting process prior to commencing the sale of alcohol, and the Zoning Code currently does not distinguish between the sale of beer and wine and distilled spirits (i.e., "hard liquor").

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

WHEREAS, given the potential negative social and community impacts of alcohol sales in the City, and the nuisance related social and economic harms that can arise if alcohol sales are not properly regulated and vetted, it is appropriate for the City to re-evaluate its present Zoning Code practice of providing ministerial exemptions from the requirement to obtain a CUP prior to commencing alcohol sales in certain instances.

WHEREAS, the current Zoning Code exemption provisions have not been examined as to their propriety in many years. Given the potential for urban decay and blight if alcohol sales are allowed to proliferate unchecked, it is appropriate that the Planning Commission and Planning Staff undertake a study of this issue to provide the City Council with a recommendation as to whether or not the City's current Code provisions represent the "best practices" in this critical area of regulation.

WHEREAS, the purpose of the interim ordinance is to pause the permit issuance system pending appropriate study and recommendations for those alcohol related uses that are now currently exempted from the requirement to obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) before commencing operations.

WHEREAS, a moratorium temporarily prohibiting the exemption of certain alcohol related sales uses from the requirement of obtaining a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) before commencing operations is needed in order to undertake a study pursuant to Long Beach Municipal Code, Chapter 21.50, to determine whether or not the City's current zoning regulations related to alcohol related CUP exemptions are appropriate or need further review or modification.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach ordains as follows:

Section 1. Purpose and Findings. At the direction of the City Council at its duly noticed meetings of March 10th and 17th, 2015, the Planning Bureau of the Department of Development Services and the Planning Commission will conduct an evaluation and study to determine whether or not the City's current zoning regulations related to alcohol sales CUP exemptions are appropriate or need further review or

modification.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

The City Council specifically finds that the existing regulations contained in the zoning and business regulations of the City may be in conflict with the zoning and/or business regulations that are, or will be, studied by the Development Services Department and the Planning Commission pursuant to the City Council's direction. The City Council further finds that this interim ordinance does not, and shall not, conflict with the applicable provisions of the California Coastal Act.

Section 2. Estimated Time for Completion of Study. It is estimated that the study or studies undertaken in connection with the adoption of this interim ordinance shall take the various involved Departments and the Planning Commission approximately one hundred and twenty (120) days to complete. For the purposes of this ordinance, this interim moratorium study period shall expire no later than August 19, 2015, or at such time as the City Council does adopt appropriate zoning or business license regulations related to all or some of the above mentioned alcohol related sales businesses, whichever is sooner.

Prohibition. During the one hundred and twenty (120) day Section 3. interim moratorium period, no application shall be approved or processed for an exemption from the CUP requirement as said exemptions are described in the "Footnote" and "Notes" section of Table 32-1 and 32-1A of Title 21 of the City's Zoning Code. Said prohibition shall apply Citywide for the duration of the interim moratorium period as described above.

Section 4. Exception. This interim moratorium ordinance is not intended to, and shall not apply to: (1) Restaurants serving alcoholic beverages with meals only, provided that the restaurant does not have a fixed bar which provides customer service at said fixed bar; (2) Grocery Stores, which for the purpose of this ordinance shall be defined as a retail sales establishment having as its principal line of business the sale of food and food products, and related items to the customer, which food products are primarily intended for off-premise consumption, where other household supplies or other

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

products are secondary to the primary purpose of food sales.

The City Council finds and determines that the proposed Section 5. interim ordinance is not in conflict with the various provisions of the California Coastal Act because, among other things, the proposed interim ordinance does not in any way affect access to or the enjoyment of coastal related activities.

Section 6. Declaration of Urgency. This ordinance is an emergency ordinance within the meaning of Long Beach City Charter section 211, and it is urgently required for the long term preservation of the public peace, health and welfare of the citizens of Long Beach for the reason that, pending completion of the necessary planning study and recommendation, it is critical that no new alcohol related CUP exemptions are issued, except as set forth above, in order to prevent the potential proliferation of additional alcohol sales outlets in the City without appropriate conditions of approval, review, or proper vetting. Furthermore, the issuance of any new alcohol related CUP permit exemptions may be at odds with recommended zoning regulations that are, or shortly will be, studied by the City's Planning staff and the Planning Commission.

Section 7. This ordinance is an emergency ordinance duly adopted by the City Council in accordance with Long Beach City Charter section 211 by a vote of at least five (5) of its members and shall take effect immediately. The City Clerk shall certify to a separate roll call and vote on the question of the emergency of this ordinance and to its passage by the vote of five (5) members of the City Council of the City of Long Beach, and shall cause the same to be posted in three (3) conspicuous places in the City of Long Beach.

Section 8. This ordinance shall also be adopted by the City Council as a regular ordinance, to the end that in the event of any defect or invalidity in connection with the adoption of this ordinance as an emergency ordinance, the same shall, nevertheless, be and become effective on the thirty-first day after it is approved by the Mayor.

> Section 9. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance by

2015, by the following vote:

Councilmembers: Ayes: Councilmembers: Noes: Councilmembers: Absent: Clerk OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney 333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor Long Beach, CA 90802-4664 Approved: Mayor (Date)