



Dear Citizens,

As many of you are aware, there will be an election on November 7, 2017 to allow for licenses to be issued by Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in Galena Park for the strictly regulated legal sale of alcohol including mixed beverages. The City is sending out this notice to address questions received at City Hall related to the election.

The reason we are having this election is that it is required by state law.

The City Secretary received a petition circulated and signed by many citizens of Galena Park seeking an election to allow legal sale of alcohol including mixed beverages in our City. The law actually enables people to obtain TABC and City of Galena Park liquor licenses and provide alcohol for sale in compliance with State, County, and City laws. According to Title 17 of the Texas Elections Code, section 501.032, the City Commission was required to and must hold the election once a properly signed petition is received. The City Commission ordered the election, as required by law, and the registered voters of Galena Park have the right to vote FOR or AGAINST the proposition legal sale of alcohol including mixed beverages.

No matter the outcome, the City is well prepared and has taken proper measures to secure the well-being of the City and our citizens.

The City Commission voted into law regulations governing the sale of Alcohol that apply if any liquor license is ever issued by TABC. The ordinance, Ordinance 2017-06, sets limits on the hours and locations for the sale of alcoholic beverages whether for home consumption or on-site consumption. The Ordinance regulates sales in residential areas or within 300 feet of a church, day care, hospital, or school.

The Ordinance expressly states that:

(i) It shall be unlawful to sell alcoholic beverages within three hundred feet (300') of any church, public or private school, Day Care Center, Child Care Facility, or public hospital. The measurements to be along the property lines of the street fronts and from front door to front door and in a direct line across intersections where they occur.

and

(i) A person commits an offense if the person possesses an open container or consumes an alcoholic beverage on a public street, public alley, or public sidewalk within 1,000 feet of the property line of a facility that is a public or private school, including a parochial school that provides all or any part of prekindergarten through twelfth grade.

The City Commission also took measures to prepare for the possibility of a passing vote in this election:

The City Commission passed fees for alcohol licenses so that the money for monitoring and compliance measures will not have to be diverted from other important areas of the City's Budget. You can be assured that the City will monitor and require compliance with TABC regulations and with City laws should any business be licensed to sell liquor in the city.

The City Commission took steps to protect the culture and safety of Galena Park. In fact, the City Commission passed regulations to ensure that bars, cantinas, taverns and nightclub will not come into our neighborhoods.

The City Commission also took steps to prevent public drunkenness. They passed laws forbidding public consumption in public areas such as streets, sidewalks, city parks and public walkways as well as both public consumption and open containers anywhere outside in the business district.

It is up to the citizens of Galena Park whether to vote for or against the legal sale of alcohol, including mixed beverages. This letter is meant merely to ensure that citizens of Galena Park are fully informed of recent changes in our regulations and laws that they may find important in making their decision.

And we want to reassure all citizens that Galena Park will continue to be a safe community even if the election passes and a convenience store is able to be licensed to sell a beer.

We support our Police Department and we reject any criticism from those who might claim our PD cannot enforce the law in Galena Park!

Voting location and time information is as follows. For more details please see the official election notices.

Early voting is held on all days other than holidays, Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. beginning October 23, 2017 through November 1, 2017 and from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on November 2, 2017 and November 3, 2017. Early voting is held at both locations regardless of precinct. Election day voting will be held from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on November 7, 2017 at the location that is designated for your voting precinct, below.

1. Alvin D. Baggett Community Building located at 1302 Keene Street and containing all the area of the city located in Harris County Voting Precinct Number 081.
2. City Hall located at 2000 Clinton Drive and containing that entire portion of the city located in Harris County Voting Precinct Number 208 and 081.

Respectfully,



Esmeralda Moya, Mayor