

ORDINANCE NO.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JOLIET LIQUOR CODE BY ADDING A
SOCIAL DISTRICT TO CHAPTER 4 OF THE JOLIET CODE OF ORDINANCES**

WHEREAS, the City of Joliet is a home rule unit of local government; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have the authority to adopt ordinances to promulgate rules and regulations that pertain to its government and affairs and the protect public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City of Joliet is revitalizing the downtown area for the benefit and enjoyment of all; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council recognize their role in facilitating the successful revitalization of the downtown area;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have seen fit to continue working with local business owners to revitalize the downtown area;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have seen fit to regulate the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in order to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Joliet; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council recognize that the Code of Ordinances must be kept current and consistent with commercial activities in the City of Joliet; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have determined that it is necessary to create a pilot program for a social district for the downtown area; and

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOLIET, ILLINOIS, PURSUANT TO ITS STATUTORY AND HOME RULE AUTHORITY, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The Mayor and City Council hereby find that the recitals contained in the remainder of this Ordinance are true, correct, and complete and are hereby incorporated into this Ordinance by reference.

SECTION 2: That this amendment to the City of Joliet Liquor Code shall be considered a Pilot Program in that the amendment will remain in effect for six (6) months from the date of June 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. The amendment will only be in effect within the Chicago Street Corridor. The amendment is required to be renewed by the Council for the City of Joliet upon the termination of the Pilot Program. Should the amendment not be renewed by the Council for the City of Joliet, the amendment will be considered stricken from the Code; the Code will revert back to the Ordinance as written on the day prior to the passing of this amendment. The City reserves the right to end the pilot program at any point prior to its six-month termination should the Liquor Commissioner

determine early termination is necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

Pilot Program is defined as a small-scale, preliminary trial used to evaluate the feasibility, effectiveness, and potential outcomes of a proposed project prior to a full-scale implementation.

SECTION 3: That Chapter 4, Article I, In General, Section 4-1 *Definitions* shall be amended to add the following:

City Square means a certain parcel of real property located in the City of Joliet, Illinois, Will County, Illinois, being described as follows:

Commencing at the westernmost sidewalk edge line along Chicago Street; thence west along the plaza to the eastern most face of the Ottawa Street Parking Deck; thence north to the southernmost sidewalk line along Clinton Street (or northern boundary of said property; thence south to the northernmost sidewalk edge line (or southern edge line of planter areas). Together with all improvements thereon, including but not limited to public square spaces, sidewalks, paving, landscaping, seating, lighting fixtures, public art, and other permanent or temporary easements, and including any permanent or rights-of-way necessary for public access, utilities, staging, events, maintenance or service.

Chicago Street Corridor means the sidewalk area on the east and west sides of Chicago Street from Jefferson Street to Cass Street. This corridor is limited to include only those businesses that are sidewalk-level facing Chicago Street and who possess a Chicago Street address.

Ticketed Event. At times, the City Square will hold ticketed events. These events require attendees to purchase a ticket for entry or participation and the purchase of a ticket grants the holder the right to attend the event.

SECTION 4: That Chapter 4, Article II, Licensing and Application, Section 4-15 *Classes of Licenses* shall be amended to add the following:

(r) *Class DT Permit* shall authorize the sale on the specified premises of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises, within the City Square area of the City of Joliet, and within the Chicago Street Corridor of the City of Joliet. This does not allow a Class DT Permit holder to sell alcoholic liquor within the City Square area.

The Class DT Permit shall permit the authorized holder to sell alcoholic liquor for consumption outside of the permanent structure containing the licensed premises in a location designated by the Liquor Commissioner beginning at 4:00 p.m. on all weekday and weekend days until 10:00 p.m. from May 1 through September 30 and 9:00 p.m. from October 1 through April 30.

Food Services. The licensed premises shall include a full kitchen and such facility shall be properly licensed as a food service establishment. The permittee must staff and

maintain a full operational kitchen that prepares food for immediate consumption. No more than forty-percent (40%) of total sales for the licensed business shall be from the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Removal of Open Containers from Licensed Premises. Alcoholic beverages sold by the licensed establishment may be removed from the premises so long as the beverages remain within the Chicago Street Corridor, including the City Square. Any alcoholic beverage removed from the licensed premises shall be in a designated cup provided by the City of Joliet. The cup shall have the City of Joliet seal, name of the licensed establishment from which the beverage was removed, date of purchase written upon it, and time of purchase written upon it.

Any person(s) possessing liquor on a public way or in any parking lot, parking garage, business property, or vacant lot in a manner contrary to this ordinance shall be considered in violation of City of Joliet Ordinance 4-40 or 4-40.1.

Within the Chicago Street Corridor, including City Square as defined in Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-1, the following regulations apply:

- (1) Any Class DT license may sell one alcoholic beverage in a clear plastic cup for removal from the premises; provided, however, that the alcoholic beverage is not placed in a can, bottle or other glass container and, further provided, that the licensee may dispense no more than one alcoholic beverage per person, and no person shall remove more than one alcoholic beverage from the premises; and
- (2) Any alcoholic beverage dispensed pursuant to this section shall not exceed sixteen (16) fluid ounces in size and no person shall possess an open container containing an alcoholic beverage in excess of sixteen (16) fluid ounces on the streets, sidewalks, parks, or other public places within the area defined as downtown.
- (3) Unless specifically provided otherwise by ordinance, the regulations provided by this section shall be in full force and effect during all festivals within the City of Joliet.

Except for the area and circumstances specified in Section 4-15, *Removal of Open Containers*, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess an alcoholic beverage in an open container, either on their person, in a motor vehicle or otherwise on the streets, sidewalks, parks, squares or other public places within the City of Joliet.

Limitations. In addition to any other requirement, a Class DT Permit or endorsement may be denied or revoked if the applicant or holder fails to clearly establish to the satisfaction of the Liquor Commissioner:

- (1) That the extended hours of operation and outdoor operations will not disturb the lawful use and quiet enjoyment of nearby properties;

- (2) That adequate safeguards are in place for security, crowd control, lighting control, and the protection of minors;
- (3) That the premises will be operated in strict accordance with applicable health, building, fire and life safety codes;
- (4) That the licensee has previously maintained adequate control and supervision of the licensed premises and has consistently operated the licensed premises in substantial compliance with the city liquor code.

In addition to any other requirement, the Social District Pilot Program may be terminated at any time prior to the six-month pilot program termination should the Liquor Commissioner determine the Social District Pilot Program is detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the community or for any other reason.

SECTION 5: That Chapter 4, Article II, Licensing and Application, Section 4-23 *License Fees* shall be amended to add the following:

Class DT Permit with included endorsements \$500.00.

SECTION 6: In the event that any provision(s) of this Ordinance shall be declared to be invalid or unenforceable by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such adjudication shall in no way affect or impair the validity or enforceability of any of the remaining provision(s) of this Ordinance that may be given effect without such invalid or unenforceable provision(s).

SECTION 7: All Ordinances directly in conflict with the terms of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 8: This Ordinance shall be deemed severable, and the invalidity of any portion hereof shall not invalidate the remainder.

SECTION 9: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication provided by law.

_____ this ____ day of May, 2026.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

VOTING YES: _____

VOTING NO: _____

NOT VOTING: _____