



MEMORANDUM

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM

TO: City Council

FROM: Planning & Zoning Administrator

SUBJECT: Social District Map Amendment

At the April 2nd, 2024, City Council meeting, there was a discussion about the current social district map for the City of Douglas, and questions about expanding the boundary to include Beery Field.

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) defines the boundaries of the Social District as being a "Commons Area", and all consumption of alcoholic beverages must be done within the Commons Area. Additionally, the sale of alcoholic beverages must be done by a licensee who has obtained Social District Permits from the local governmental body, as well as the MLCC.

For an event to happen at Beery Field, where alcoholic beverages will be sold by a vendor, the applicant must obtain a special license from the MLCC and must be a non-profit organization. Also, if there is an event where a non-profit organization has a vendor selling alcoholic beverages, the beverages purchased from the licensed establishments who hold social district permits, are not permitted inside of the event from start to end of the event. Further, any alcoholic beverages sold at events cannot leave the premises, including other common areas in the social district.

One item that needed to be resolved was whether an event that is happening at Beery Field would prevent local businesses from also participating as well. After speaking with the MLCC, the common area would be separate between the two. Which means beverages cannot leave Beery Field and the beverages outside the event cannot enter Beery Field. Staff will work on creating a plan to ensure that this is enforced. Overall, after extensive research, we are confident that incorporating Beery Field into the Social District will not be an issue.

I recommend City Council adopt resolution 18-2024 to amend the social district map and expand the common area per Public Act 124 of 2020.