

City of Nome Common Council

Thank you for keeping the conversation surrounding alcohol and Front Street in Nome progressing forward. As most citizen are aware, the current state of Front Street is very dismal and doesn't promote tourism, economic development, and most importantly quality of life for the citizens of Nome. It would be in the best interest of the City of Nome and the Nome citizens to reduce the amount of alcohol available on Front Street.

According to the Nome Nugget Newspaper, one can find that in the last year, almost 100% of arrests involve alcohol. I believe the majority of EMS calls are focused on Front Street. Where do people tend to drink in public? Where do people who drink too much tend to pass out or require medical attention? Where are the crowds before 11am, when the package stores are allowed to sell alcohol, hanging out? Where do citizens of Nome avoid with their children? Where can the majority of trash, empty monarch vodka a.k.a "red cap" bottles, vomit and feces be found? Is this our Nome? Why have more businesses not filled the vacant spaces on Front Street or maintained the current buildings more aesthetically? Would you if every morning there was stains from the night before, or someone passed out in your entry way?

What is the source of this unsanitary, derelict, and dangerous condition we've allowed to develop on Front Street? I would argue that it is due to alcohol sales ON FRONT STREET. Bars do not allow patrons to walk out with drinks. In essence, the package store is doing just that. It may be that we are currently lucky to have strict and dedicated managers at the Nome Quickstop location, but the problems on Front Street persist and will not get better with the location selling alcohol.

I ask the Nome Common Council to protest the renewal of the Nome Quickstop Package Store License on the basis that: 1.) There are currently 4 or more package store license in Nome when a town of 3500 should only have 2 (based on new package store license approval process requirements), 2.) Problems with public drinking and intoxicated individuals are predominantly centered within the vicinity of the Nome Quickstop, 3.) Public intoxication and visitor experiences have proven to not be compatible, yet the Nome Quickstop and Nome Visitor Center are next door neighbors (across from City Hall), 4.) Alaska Commercial owns Nome Quickstop as well as two other package stores in Nome.

There are a few options in front of you. When considering those, I also ask you to consider what benefit the current state of Front Street provides to residents and visitors. What is the benefit of recommending approval of the package store license for the Quickstop for the citizens of Nome's quality of life, economic development of Front Street, and growing tourism?

Drew McCann, Director
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