

## **ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM MEMO REGULAR MEETING**

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 and Chapter 26 to add a Class L (Recreational) Liquor License

**Staff Contact:** Rose Huéramo, City Clerk

**Summary:** The City of Rochelle was recently approached by a new local business offering indoor golf simulators about the possibility of obtaining a liquor license. Currently, there is no classification in Rochelle Municipal code for this type of business. Creation of a new liquor license classification, designed specifically for recreational venues offering unique recreational experiences, will facilitate the development of new businesses in our community.

This proposed license would allow the controlled and limited service of beer and wine only, in full compliance with Illinois Liquor Control Commission regulations. Under the new classification, eligible facilities could serve wine by the glass up to 6 ounces and beer by the glass up to 12 ounces. To promote responsible consumption, all alcohol must be consumed within clearly marked, designated service areas for on-premises consumption only.

For indoor recreational activities, the ILCC requires that all alcohol be consumed within licensed indoor areas. These facilities must ensure responsible operations through employee supervision and proper training on alcohol service. Alcohol must not be carried outside the designated areas, and service must be offered only when patrons are actively engaged in the facility's core activity. Best practices like video surveillance, age verification, and staff BASSET certification are strongly encouraged to ensure ongoing compliance and to prioritize public safety. Alcohol service would only be allowed during hours when a paid recreational service is actively being provided. Food service is permitted, provided it meets all health department regulations and licensing requirements.

The proposed annual fee for this license is \$750, reflecting the limited scope of alcohol service and the emphasis on a relaxed, experience-driven environment rather than a traditional bar or restaurant setting. It's important to note that this proposal does not impact on the existing moratorium on Class B liquor licenses, which remains in effect.

By creating this new license category, facilities like indoor golf simulators would have a responsible way to offer limited beer and wine service. The goal is to enhance the guest experience in a way that aligns with ILCC standards and prioritizes public health and safety.

**Strategic Plan Goal Application:** Building community engagement, supporting local business growth, and promoting safe, enjoyable spaces.

**Recommendation:** Approve an Ordinance Amending Ch. 6 Article I, Sec. 6-3. License classifications.