

TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD



RESOLUTION NO. 66-23

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LIQUOR LICENSE REFORM IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey's liquor license laws date back to the 1950s and 1960; and

WHEREAS, under current law, a municipality may issue plenary retail consumption licenses until the combined total number in the municipality is fewer than one license for each 3,000 municipal residents and this restriction creates a shortage of these licenses in some municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey's liquor license laws has caused an extreme supply imbalance that the statewide average cost of an individual liquor license is \$300,000, an exorbitant amount causing an inequitable landscape among current and potential restaurateurs; and

WHEREAS, the restaurant liquor license standards of other states in the Northeast region enable restaurateurs to join the market at a significantly lower price point than the State of New Jersey, thus giving them a competitive advantage; and

WHEREAS, in today's market, small business and downtown economic development thrive best where there is a healthy full-service restaurant market; and

WHEREAS, there is clear need to for reform as demonstrated by the numerous bills already introduced in the New Jersey Legislature each session with the intent to expand liquor licensure; and

WHEREAS, Governor Murphy affirmed his commitment to reform in his State of the State address on January 10, 2023 with a draft plan to make it more equitable to obtain a new liquor license while providing compensation to existing active license holders; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the need to compensate existing license holders that paid exorbitant prices for the right to sell liquor in their restaurants; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey should be a leader in reform initiatives that helps its small businesses survive and thrive, provides an equitable business environment, and enables New Jersey to better compete in the regional market.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that:

1. The Township supports meaningful liquor license reform legislation to create a more balanced liquor license market.
2. The Clerk be and hereby is authorized to distribute copies of this Resolution to all appropriate officials and agencies including our Legislative Representatives, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

I, Elizabeth J. Fritzen, Township Clerk of the Township of Maplewood, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, at a regular meeting of said Committee held on February 21, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Maplewood in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, on this 21st day of February, 2023.



ELIZABETH J. FRITZEN, R.M.C.
Township Clerk