

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS

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Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington



Extending Hours of Liquor Service Resolution #2012-01

WHEREAS, the members of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs are assembled for the annual Spring Conference at the Three Rivers Convention Center, in Kennewick, Washington, May 24, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Liquor Board is currently deliberating whether to grant a request to extend the hours for serving alcohol to 0200-0600 hours and is scheduled to make a determination on May 30, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the law enforcement community has not yet provided robust feedback to the Liquor Board regarding the potential for making liquor service available 24 hours a day when approved by local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, absent law enforcement response to the Liquor Board's request for input, beverage suppliers, bars and others whose primary interests are financial will have the most public influence on the outcome; and

WHEREAS, extended liquor hours have a negative impact on public safety resulting in greater demands for law enforcement services through anticipated increased assaults and disturbance calls among others; and

WHEREAS, extended liquor hours will result in higher levels of public intoxication, increased numbers of intoxicated drivers on the roads during peak morning commute times, and increased alcohol related injury and death; and

WHEREAS, if extensions are granted to one jurisdiction economic factors will likely force elected officials in surrounding jurisdictions to request extended hours to enable their business community to remain competitive and viable; and

WHEREAS, it is unknown what impact the recent decisions by the State Legislature to reduce shared revenues previously provided to municipalities from the liquor excise tax to address alcohol related issues will have when combined with the potential impacts of greater access to alcoholic beverages with the privatization of liquor sales;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the membership of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs opposes the Liquor Board's granting extended liquor service hours to any jurisdiction requesting such extension.

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