



NORTH CAROLINA BAR OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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<https://ncbarowners.org/gsosafetyordinance/>

Board Members of The North Carolina Bar Owners Association were approached by the City of Greensboro to help craft a security and best practices plan for ABC permitted establishments. Currently, the City is exploring the idea of enacting a security ordinance for all permittees open and serving/selling alcohol after 9pm in the City with required security officers at each location based on occupancy.

Following a call between NCBOA and Greensboro Bar Owners that reviewed systems in place and existing requirements of all ABC permit holders, The North Carolina Bar Owners Association in conjunction with their Greensboro Chapter recommends the following to the City:

Promoter Permits

- The data shows violent incidents around the city have happened at ABC licensed establishments, especially where promoters are involved. This is **not** exclusive to private bars.
- We propose promoters be required to obtain a permit with the city that shows:
 - Proof of insurance
 - Completed background check with fingerprints
 - Contract with a third-party security company that is licensed and bonded
- Permittees should work with promoters who have proven records of responsible performance. We propose the city track problematic promoters and deny/revoke their permits if a track record of violent incidents is found.
- Permittees should require that all promotional materials be approved by the venue prior to being published or released to the public.
- Permittees should have representation at the door to ensure that all door policies are adhered to by promoters and their employees. Management should reserve the right to refuse entrance to any guest pursuant to their existing admission policies.
- All guests and members of the promotional team must be treated the same as all other patrons, with respect to the establishment's ID checking policies.



Law Enforcement

- The City should ensure officers are visible in entertainment corridors during peak hours and in close proximity to large events.
- By requiring promoter permits, law enforcement and the city will now have a proactive measure to increase safety and penalize bad actors.
- Responsible business owners will provide law enforcement with information in a timely manner and should cooperate with their investigation fully.
- Open channels of communication between business owners, the city, and law enforcement by way of monthly meetings should be established. We need to ensure incident response is consistent and fair.

City Security

- Bar owners should not be responsible for policing patrons in public streets or parking lots.
- We propose the city contracting with a third-party security company to patrol entertainment corridors and de-escalate situations without the need for law enforcement in the event law enforcement resources are stressed.
- Permittee holders want and need the outside of their business to feel safe just as much as the city does. Incidents either inside, outside, or in the surrounding area are bad for business.

In-House Security

- In order to obtain ABC permits, applicants are required to submit floor plans to the ABC Commission for approval.
- Once permitted, establishments undergo regular fire inspections to ensure well-lit and marked exits, paths of egress are clear of obstruction, working fire extinguishers, and occupancy compliance.
- ABC/ALE inspections occur regularly checking for compliance with membership, tax stamps, ID Checks, underage drinking, and overall safe nightly operations. Responsible bar owners should have adequate staffing for the safe operation of their establishment.



- In-House security plans and training should include an overview of the operations/security at the establishment, the locations of security cameras (if applicable), policies and procedures regarding inspection of identification, and policies and procedures regarding the dispersal of patrons.
- Procedures for security to separate and remove disorderly or potentially violent patrons in a manner consistent with the law that is designed to prevent continuation of violent activity inside or outside, including calling the police.

Responsible Service

- The NC ABC commission provides a free comprehensive Responsible Alcohol Seller/Server Program online and in-person available to all permittees and their staff.
- The program is designed to educate staff on: the prevention of sales to underage persons and intoxicated persons, acceptable forms of identification, how to spot fake/altered IDs, dram shop laws, happy hour laws, hours of sale, how to protect your business, protect the public, and protect yourself.
- We recommend this program to all permittees as well as event promoters doing business in the City of Greensboro.

Incident Review

- Licensees should not be apprehensive about calling GPD in the event of an impaired / unruly patron, or incident for fear of disciplinary action by the City.
- The overwhelming majority of licensees understand the responsibilities that come with holding a license and work hard to educate their staff and to improve their business practices.
- ABC / ALE and the City have systems in place to revoke permits and/or issue fines. The North Carolina Bar Owners Association and their local chapter would like to be a partner with the City in reviewing alcohol and promoter-related incidents.