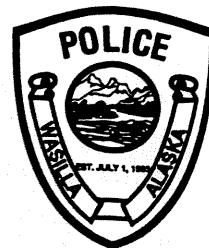


WASILLA POLICE DEPARTMENT

250 N. KNIK STREET
WASILLA, AK 99654-7014
(907) 373 - 9077
(907) 373 - 9051 FAX



Information Memo 96-17

7-5-96

To: Wasilla City Council
From: Irl Stambaugh, Chief of Police
Thru: John Stein, Mayor
Re: Liquor Establishment Closing Hours

Since the inception of the Wasilla Police Department in 1993 it was recognized that the number of drunk drivers arrested in the community was exceptionally large for an area the size of Wasilla (in 1994 there were 167 arrests). As a result of the increasing numbers of arrests in 1994 the Police Department hosted a public forum where the bar owners in Wasilla were invited to attend. This meeting was held in an effort to reach some common goals on how to deal with the problem as a community, unfortunately only two businesses attended (Evangelo's and the Best Western). After that meeting in a continuing effort to address the problem Mr. Messick became an instructor for Techniques of Alcohol Management (TAM) classes which were initially offered to the local establishments at no cost, again a minority of the businesses participated.

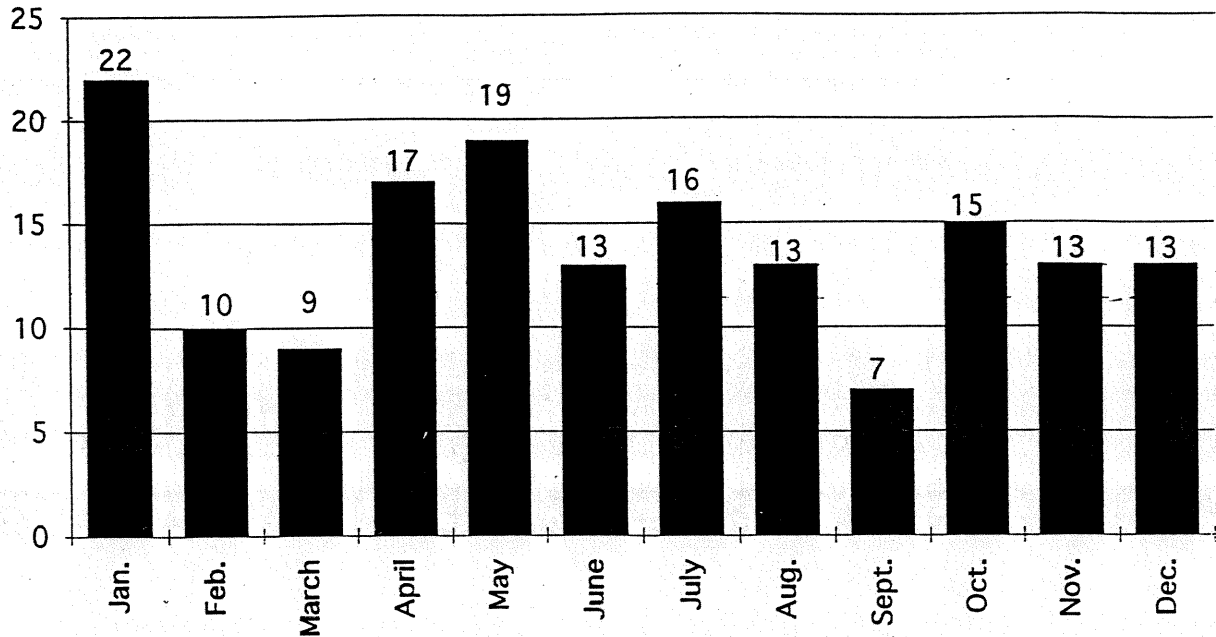
Since 1994 the number of drunk drivers in the community has continued to be a problem for the police, courts and other agencies, the numbers of arrests remain high with 167 arrests in 1994, 115 arrests in 1995 and 48 arrests for the first half of 1996. One common factor over the years has been that the majority of the arrests occur during a very short time period from 2:00 AM to 7:00 AM (see attached statistical information). When arrested it has also been determined that the majority of those arrested are not just "on the edge" of intoxication but are usually at least double the DWI limit of .10. One recently reported case is where an individual was found sleeping in the middle of the Parks Highway at 0140 hrs. by a patrol officer, upon being checked at the hospital he was found to have a blood alcohol (BA) of .495, the individual later admitted to drinking at a local bar.

It is inconceivable to me how any liquor establishment could allow a person to drink until they reached a level of .495, this level of intoxication usually results in a coma and death if not treated.

In conversations with other groups in the community to include, Valley Women's Resource Center, Life Quest, State Department of Health and Social Services, State District Attorneys Office, Mat-Su Council on Alcoholism and a letter by the editor, Frontiersman 7-5-96 (letters attached), it is not only sound judgment to close liquor establishments at an earlier hour it's past due.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, I am available at your convenience for any questions or comments.

1994 DWI Arrests = 167



Arrest Information 1994

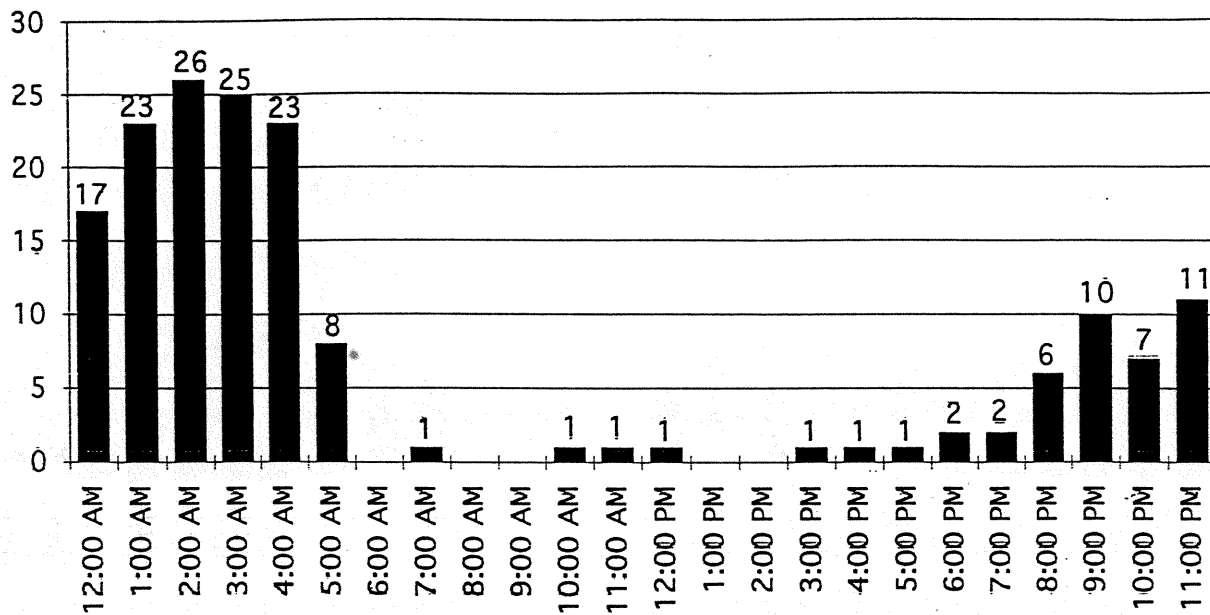
In addition to the number of arrests made in 1994 the following information was obtained during this research.

139 of those arrested were males and 28 were females. The ages range from 16 to 75.

64 of the Blood Alcohol (BA) results were .150 or lower, 82 BA results were .151 or higher. 21 persons refused the test.

The day of the week arrested varies but the majority of the arrests are on Saturday and Sunday.

DWI Times of Arrest 1994

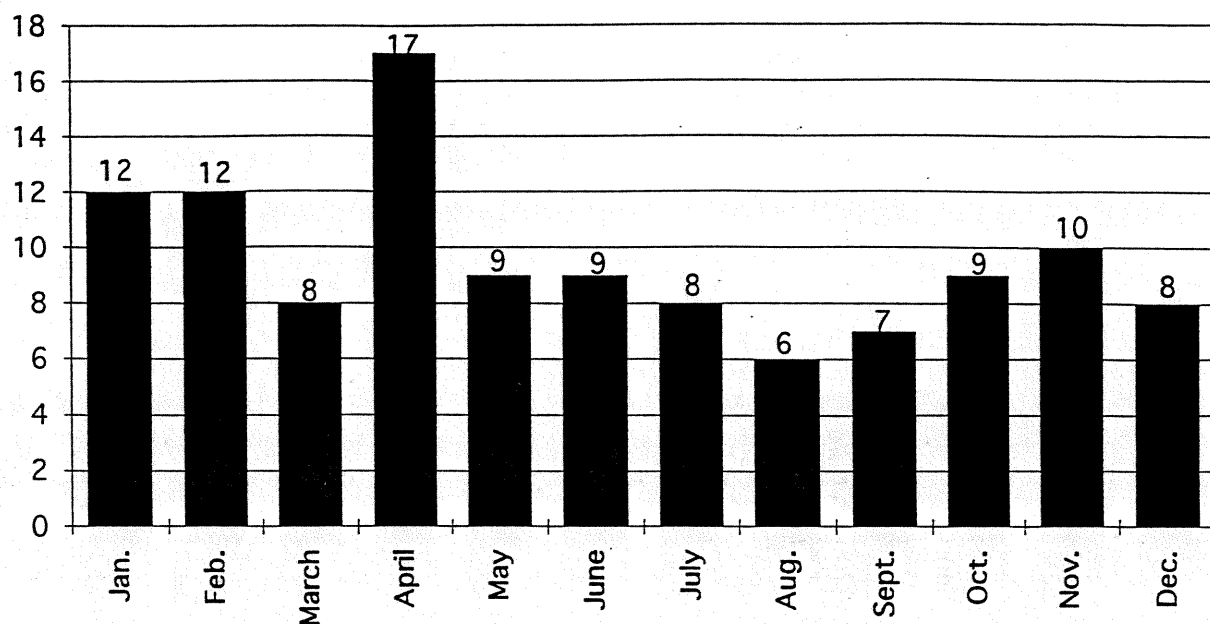


Time Study 1994 Arrests

As you can observe from the above chart about half of the arrests occurred during those hours that have been recommended for closure.

83 of the 167 arrests (about half) occurred between the hours of 2:00 and 7:00 AM, a six hour time period. The other 84 arrests occurred during the remaining 18 hours. The other peak period is between 8:00 PM and 11:00 PM where 34 arrests were made.

1995 DWI Arrests = 115



Arrest Information 1995

In addition to the number of arrests made in 1995 the following information was obtained during this research.

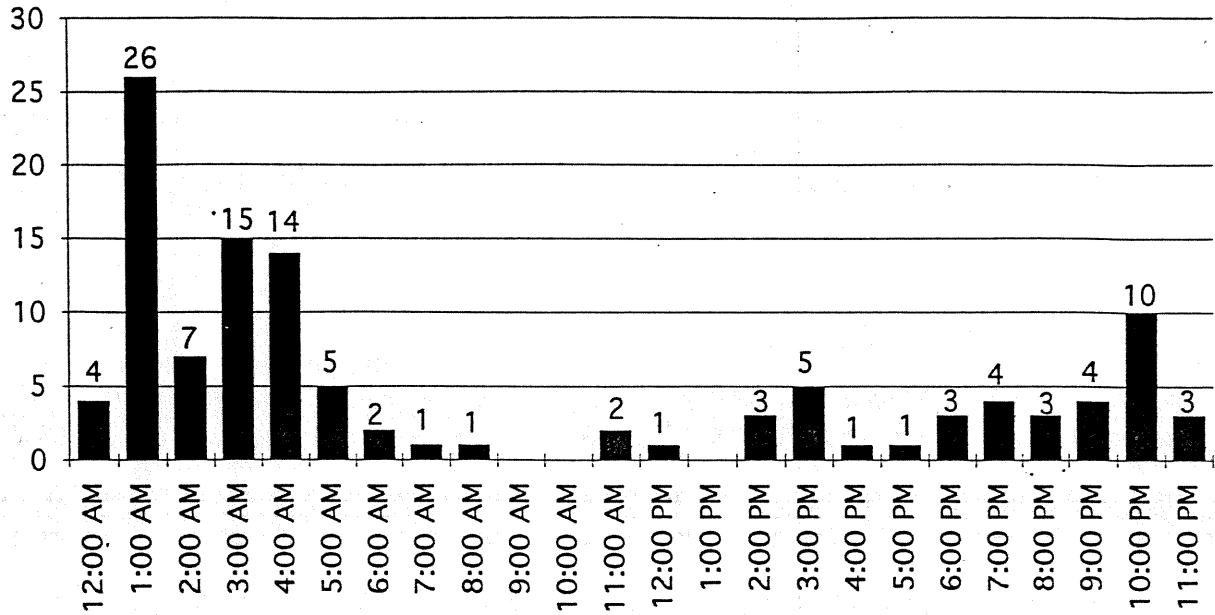
1994 had 167 arrests and 1995 had 115 arrests. This is a decrease of 52 arrests. I attribute this decline to two factors, one of those factors is that both the Wasilla Police Department and the Alaska State Troopers aggressively patrolled the areas in an effort to reduce the number of DWI's. The second factor is that in December 1994 the "El Toro Bar" closed.

90 of those arrested were males and 25 were females. The ages range from 16 to 71.

28 of the Blood Alcohol (BA) results were .150 or lower, 65 BA results were .151 or higher. 22 persons refused the test.

The day of the week arrested varies but the majority of the arrests are on, Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday.

DWI Times of Arrest 1995

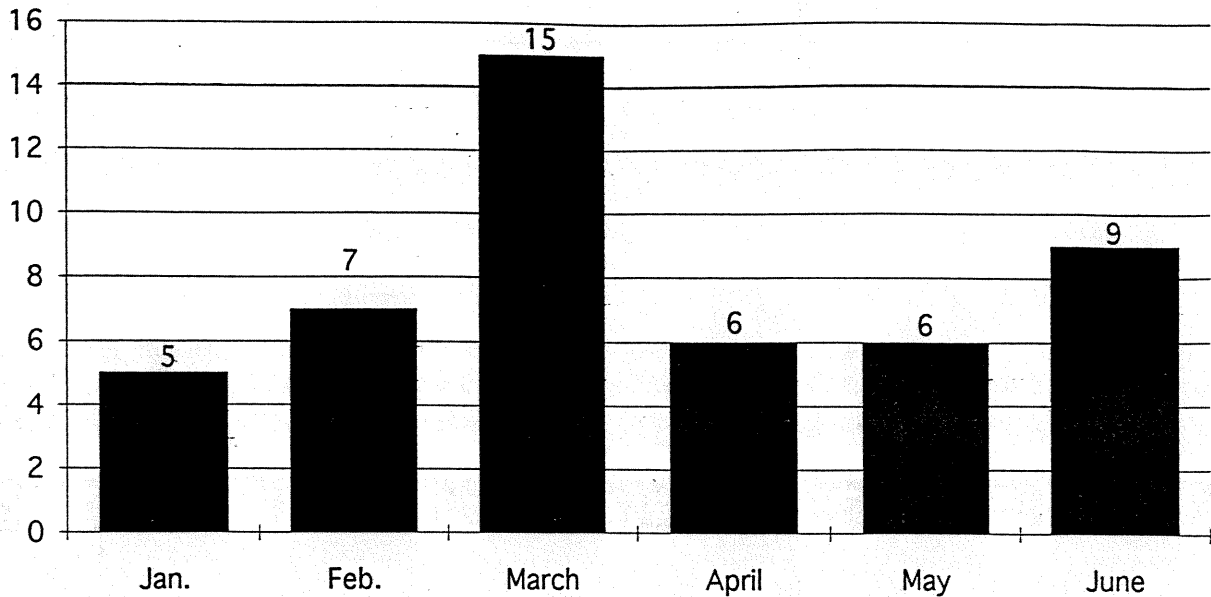


Time Study 1995 Arrests

As you can observe from the above chart 44 of the arrests occurred during those hours that have been recommended for closure.

44 of the 115 arrests occurred between the hours of 2:00 and 7:00 AM, a six hour time period. The other 71 arrests occurred during the remaining 18 hours. The other peak period is 1:00 AM where 26 arrests were made.

1996 DWI Arrests 1/2 year = 48



Arrest Information Jan. to June 1996

In addition to the number of arrests made during the first half of 1996 the following information was obtained during this research.

As of June 30, 1996, 48 arrests have been made.

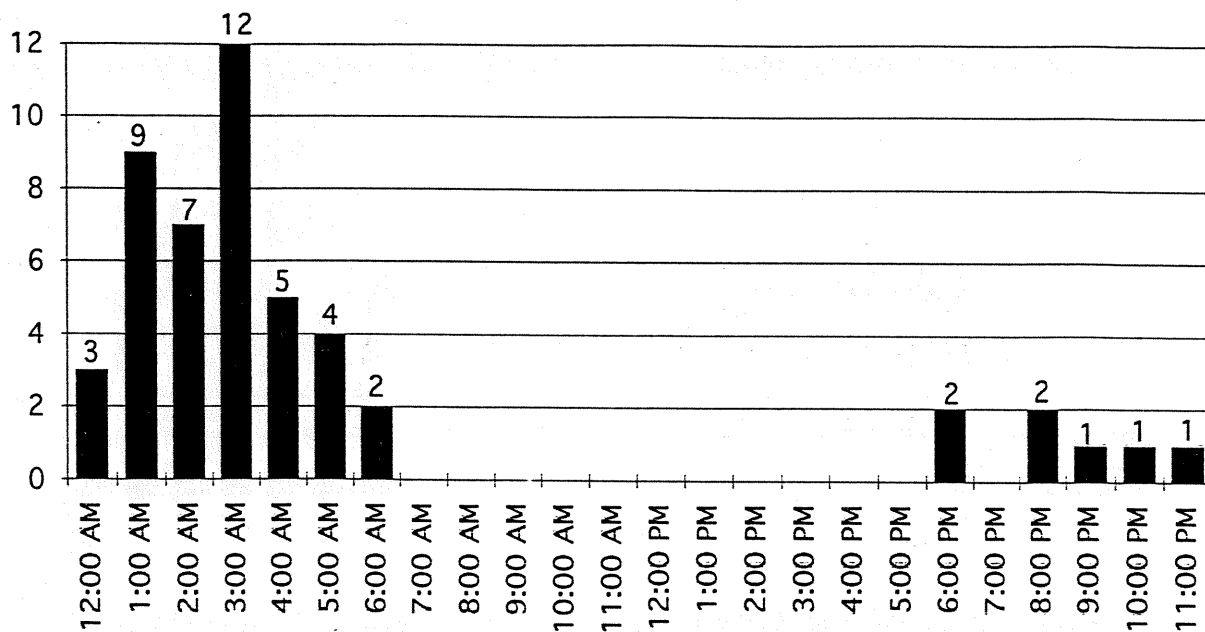
39 of those arrested were males and 9 were female. The ages range from 16 to 71.

23 of the Blood Alcohol (BA) results were .150 or lower, 17 BA results were .151 or higher. 8 persons refused the test.

The day of the week arrested varies but the majority of the arrests are on, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

1996 DWI Times of arrest

DWI Times of Arrest 1996



Time Study 1996 Arrests

As you can observe from the above chart 30 of the arrests occurred during those hours that have been recommended for closure.

30 of the 48 arrests (65%) occurred between the hours of 2:00 and 6:00 AM, a five hour time period. The other 18 arrests (35%) occurred during the remaining 19 hours. The other peak period is 1:00 AM where 9 arrests were made.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

CRIMINAL DIVISION/ THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

PLEASE REPLY TO:

- 310 K STREET, SUITE 520
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-1975
PHONE: (907)269-6300
- P.O. BOX 470
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576-0470
PHONE: (907)842-2482
- 120 TRADING BAY RD., SUITE 200
KENAI, ALASKA 99611-7716
PHONE: (907)283-3131
- 424 MARINE WAY, SUITE 202
KODIAK, ALASKA 99615-7300
PHONE: (907)486-5744
- 800 W. EVERGREEN, SUITE 102
PALMER, ALASKA 99645
PHONE: (907)745-5027

July 3, 1996

Chief Mike Lamb
Palmer Police Department

Chief Irl Stambaugh
Wasilla Police Department

Dear Chief Lamb and Chief Stambaugh:

I am aware that the governing bodies in Palmer and Wasilla will be considering proposals to change the hours during which establishments that sell alcohol may be open for business.

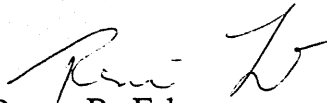
I wanted to share with you the experience of law enforcement in the community of Juneau, which took such action several years ago. In an effort to reduce crime and other incidents involving alcohol, and to make the community safer, the Juneau assembly determined to reduce the number of hours that bars could be open. As a direct result of this decision, the number of calls for assistance received by the police department decreased by 20%. This is a most impressive figure. It represents significant savings in law enforcement resources, but additionally and perhaps more importantly, it increases the safety and security of citizens.

As you know only too well, a significant number of assault cases involve misuse of alcohol and we have a large number of people who drive while under the influence late at night. There is little doubt that these threats to community safety would decrease with a reduction in the availability of alcohol.

I hope that the experience in Juneau will be of some assistance to your elected officials in determining the proper course of action for Palmer and Wasilla.

If I can be of further assistance to you in this endeavor, please let me know.

Sincerely,


Renee R. Erb
District Attorney

STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Mat-Su Field Office
268 E. Fireweed
Palmer, Alaska 99645
(907) 745-1701

Chief Irl Stambaugh
Wasilla Police Department
250 North Knik Street
Wasilla, AK 99654-7014

Dear Chief Stambaugh,

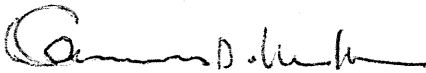
I strongly support your efforts to limit the open hours of bars and taverns in our community. In my role as Supervisor of child protective services for this area, I've had numerous discussions with yourself and others in the community as to the tremendous merits of such a plan.

Those Adults who remain in our drinking establishments into the early hours of morning are likely to be parents. In order for these parents to be drinking at these hours, one must question the circumstances their children must find themselves in.

We receive calls daily on issues directly related to these issues: parents absent until all hours, leaving children unattended; parents returning to their homes intoxicated; parents unable to get up in the mornings and, subsequently, children going unfed and unable to get on the school bus; children awakened by domestic violence and children left unattended in cars outside bars, sometimes in adverse weather conditions. We also hear, quite frequently, about Anchorage residents commuting to the Valley after the bars close in Anchorage for a few more hours of drinking. Once again, these people are likely to be parents!

There are many other social and public safety issues related to this debate on which I am less qualified to comment, but as a practitioner and a parent, I urge you to continue to pursue this course of action.

Sincerely,



Greg Van Kirk, Supervisor
Division of Family & Youth Services
Mat-su Field Office

c:\Greg\1996\wpd.ltr

RECEIVED BY
WASILLA POLICE DEPARTMENT
JUL 05 1996



230 E. Paulson Ave., Suite 68, Wasilla, Alaska 99654-7001
(907) 376-2411 • 800-478-2410 • FAX (907) 376-1626 • TDD (907) 373-5197

July 3, 1996

Irl Stambaugh
Wasilla Chief of Police
290 E. Herning Avenue
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Chief Stambaugh:

I am writing to you to express my support for the proposal to shorten the hours in the Borough for the sale of alcoholic beverages. I believe that making the Mat Su Borough hours for the sale of alcohol and bar closure the same as the hours in the Anchorage Municipality will help in the reduction of traffic deaths and accidents as well as help reduce the amount of abuse and neglect of both children and spouses that presently occurs in our community.

The recreational value that is provided by businesses that serve alcoholic beverages is usually optimized during the early evening hours. Those who drink after 2:00 am are typically those persons who have an addiction to alcohol or some kind of dysfunction. The mental health needs of the community would be well served by adopting the early closing policy as it would prevent injuries and deaths that are currently caused by late night drinking behaviors of both Borough residents and those who come to our community after the bars close in Anchorage.

The early closing policy appears to be sound public policy as it creates substantial benefits and savings to the community with minimal cost to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Irvine".

Robert S. Irvine, Ed.D., L.C.S.W.
Chief Executive Officer





403 SOUTH ALASKA STREET PALMER, AK 99645-6339
(907) 746-4080 TOLL FREE 1-800-478-4090
FAX (907) 746-1177

Chief Irl Stambaugh
Wasilla Police Department
290 East Herning Avenue
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Chief Stambaugh:

I am writing in support of extending the closing hours for bars in the Mat-Su Borough. While alcohol does not cause domestic violence, it does exacerbate it. Men who batter and are also alcohol abusers are more likely to perpetrate lethal violence on their victims. Social drinkers are not commonly out having a cocktail between 3:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. During these hours, primarily people with the worst alcohol abuse problems are drinking in the bars.

In addition to the intensifying the violence of a domestic assault, alcohol abuse in the late morning hours leads to increased drunk driving, an influx of problem drinkers from Anchorage after the bars close there, and a general erosion of public safety. While the business owners running bars will lose some level of sales, the increase in community safety balances the loss.

I am in support of the extended bar closure hours put forth by the local police departments and concerned community members.

Sincerely,

Pamela L. Sandvik
Executive Director



United Way



June 26, 1996

Dear Jim,

Your request for a summation of the TAM classes you have taught since you became a certified instructor took a little research but it was an interesting look back. In 1994, the year in which you began, you taught 4 classes in Wasilla with a total of 94 participants. In 1995, you taught 8 classes in Wasilla with 182 participants, and 7 classes in other locations (Cordova, King Salmon, etc.) with 132 participants. To date in 1996 you have taught 3 classes with 52 participants in Wasilla with one additional class there with 18 participants by a different instructor since you had an unexpected schedule conflict. We haven't yet asked you to "hit the road" for us this year but we certainly appreciate your willingness to do so with advance notice.

In fact, looking at the fact that you have preached the TAM gospel to 460 people involved with the sale of alcohol makes me realize that we owe you a big "Attaboy." Not just because it is so helpful to us with scheduling classes, but because you are a major part of TAM's effort to save lives. We here at the office tend to get bogged down with the nitty-gritty, scheduling conflicts, inventories, etc. that we sometimes forget the goal. Your request this morning caused me to realize that we owe you thanks for helping us achieve the major objective of saving lives - too bad we will never know just how we did! But having heard you in action, I know we are. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Carol Wilson
Executive Director

P.O. Box 870769
Wasilla, Alaska 99687-0769
(907) 244-1848

509 Parks Hwy.
Wasilla, Alaska
(907) 376-5853

171 Muldoon Rd.
Anchorage, AK
(907) 337-2813

June 28, 1996

Mayor John Stein
City of Wasilla
290 E. Herning
Wasilla, Alaska 99654-7091

Re: Hours of Operation (Package Liquor Stores)

Thank you for sending me notification of the proposed ordinance limiting the hours a liquor store may operate. I share your concerns regarding alcohol related domestic violence and vehicle accidents during the peak early morning hours.

The closing hours proposed are, in my opinion, more than adequate for a package store operation. However, I do see some potential disadvantages with the proposed *opening* hours. The Wine Seller, located on the Parks Highway, is very dependent upon weekend recreation such as fishing, camping, snowmachining, etc.... Because of this, restricting the *opening* hours would have a significant impact on gross sales.

If the proposal was changed to a 9:00 am opening for package stores, it would allow The Wine Seller to continue to benefit from weekend travelers passing through Wasilla. Since most of our distributors are located in Anchorage, an extra hour during the week for ordering product, receiving goods, and other duties associated with the ordinary course of business would be beneficial. It also simplifies the ordinance and provides a clear and consistent opening hour throughout the week.

I appreciate the opportunity to reply to the proposed ordinance. I believe that incorporating an earlier opening time for package liquor stores will not detract from the effectiveness of the proposed ordinance in reducing the amount of early morning alcohol related incidents. If the above mentioned changes are made, I would gladly participate in any debate in favor of the proposed ordinance. Please contact me if I can be of help in any work sessions or public debate regarding alcohol related issues.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Schrage
President MRT Inc.

cc: Chief Stambaugh, Wasilla Police Department



Frontiersman

Steve Krehl
Publisher

Vicki Naegele
Managing Editor

Growing with the Valley since 1947

Bars' last call: Early closing worth price

If some local law enforcement people — and other supporters — get their way, last call at all bars in the Mat-Su Borough will be rolled back to 2 a.m.

To most responsible people, the closing time for bars in Mat-Su Borough is probably not a real issue. Most people who stop at the bar after work or head to the bar to meet friends later in the evening have had enough partying by 2 in the morning to call it a night.

And even many of those who keep downing the suds into the early morning hours find their way home safely and responsibly.

Then, there are the others.

Shorter bar hours are being proposed to put an end to the commuting drinkers — those who travel from Anchorage bars to the Valley after 2 a.m. closings in the big city. These drinkers, and the locals who try to drive home after a long night of reveling, cause a disproportionate number of accidents and altercations, according to police. The bars, say police chiefs, should close down at 2 a.m. to discourage drinking and driving in the Valley.

Although we dislike seeing another personal freedom being infringed upon, we support the effort to shorten drinking hours. Some responsible people may be given the short shrift, but the benefits outweigh the drawbacks.

In a perfect world, there would be no rules on when drinking establishments and liquor stores could close, because no one would drink to excess. In a perfect world, there would need be no laws on drinking and driving. In a perfect world, there would be no domestic violence. But our world is far from perfect, and many of our laws are designed to protect a large segment of society from a smaller segment.

While behavior-regulating laws may cause inequities in our imperfect world, they are laws that need to be, for the good of the many still outweighs the good of the few.

— Frontiersman

MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CHURCH
1100 PULLMAN DRIVE
373-0586
Pastors David and Martha Blanchett

July 5, 1996

Chief Irl Stambaugh
Wasilla Police Department
290 East Herning Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Dear Chief Stambaugh:

I am writing in support of closing the bars in the Mat-Su Borough at an earlier hour. The Mat-Su Borough is targeted by problem drinkers as a place to go and continuing their drinking after Bars and Liquor stores close in Anchorage. There has been a number of rapes that involve alcohol, and the victim has been left in the Mat-Su Borough after being brought from Anchorage.

I am sure bar and liquor store owners will feel outraged that their sales may suffer. However, in the Anchorage area when the hours were changed some bar owners and liquor stores were relieved.

The Majestic Mountain Community Church and its' members are in support of the earlier bar closure hours put forth by the local police departments.

Sincerely,

David Blanchett for:

Pastor D. Blanchett, MMCC

PDB/at



Mat-Su Council

Substance Abuse Recovery Center

2801 Bogard Road Wasilla, Alaska 99654 (907) 376-4000

July 8, 1996

Irl Stambaugh
Chief of Police
City of Wasilla

Re: Bar closing hours.

Dear Chief Stambaugh:

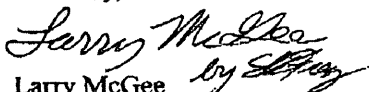
Mat-Su Council is in support of earlier bar closing hours.

By resolution of our board of directors at their July 3, 1996 meeting, the board unanimously voted in favor of supporting earlier bar closing hours for Wasilla, Palmer and the Mat-Su Borough.

There are between 800 and 1,000 alcohol-related misdemeanor cases per year in the Mat-Su Borough which are monitored by the Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP). Excessive drinking has an impact on the safety and well-being of all our citizens.

Earlier bar closing hours should help to reduce the amount of prolonged, excessive drinking in our communities.

Sincerely,


Larry McGee
President


Suzanne Frey
Executive Director

Serving the Mat-Su Valley Since 1977



JJ

RECEIVED

JUL 9 - 1996

CITY OF WASILLA, ALASKA

A & W Windbreak, Inc.
2201 East Parks Highway
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Date: July 6, 1996

RE: Bar; Hours of Operations

Dear Mr. Mayor,

The Windbreak agrees with the proposed changes, in that there is no effect on our business and our hours of operation. Should you need any other comments pertaining to this please let us know.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Andres

President of A & W Windbreak, Inc.

July 8, 1996

RECEIVED

JUL 10 1996

CITY OF WASILLA, ALASKA

The Honorable,
John C. Stein, Mayor
City of Wasilla

RE: Hours of operations

Dear Mayor Stein,

In response to your proposal to limit opening and closing hours of liquor handling establishments in the valley, I approached the membership of my post at our July 1, 1996 of this proposal.

I am happy to report that we as members of the Mat-Su Valley support you in the passing of this proposal. If there is anything further that I can help with please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely



Robert Watchus, Commander
VFW Matanuska-Susitna Post 9365

247 J

Hotshots & Cinnamons
Wasilla Bar
Paystreak
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 376-9906

John C. Stein, Mayor
City of Wasilla
290 E. Herning Ave.
Wasilla, Alaska 99654-7091

RECEIVED
JUL 15 1996
CITY OF WASILLA, ALASKA

RE: Hours of Operation

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Thank you for soliciting our input. To be frank with you as you requested, I see no connection in closing hours and domestic violence, and only a slight connection in vehicle accidents that are alcohol related, peaking in early morning hours.

Domestic violence is not caused by a specific hour of the night, nor directly a result of alcohol being consumed in bars. In those cases where alcohol is involved, obviously it is not the cause but only adds fuel to the fire of the aggressor, alcohol is purchased and consumed in places other than bars. If bars were totally eliminated, alcohol and domestic violence would still be present. I feel it would be totally naive to think that an offender would not beat his or her spouse at 3am, but only after 5am.

As far as reduction in vehicle accidents which peak in early morning hours, it seems that the number would remain the same only the hours would change. If this is trying to address drunk drivers, it will not. There still will be the same number of people who consistently drink too much, then drive. A major contributor, drinking outside the established bars, will still occur. If a person does not want to go home at 3am he simply buys a bottle at the liquor store and drinks much stronger drinks than in a supervised environment. Each Friday and Saturday, I personally pick up between a five and ten gallon bucket full of beer cans and liquor bottles dumped in my parking lot which were purchased "off sale".

I feel the only answer with both problems is to get tougher with the laws. It is not fair to reduce what is considered entertainment for the majority of law abiding persons to take place of weak sentencing for law breakers. Those people who cause trouble will continue to cause trouble until they are stopped.

Alaska is a unique state especially in the summer where people are still coming into our bar at 12:30 to 1:30am, after being outdoors enjoying the sun. If the hours are reduced what is certain to occur are more house-parties and "After Hours Clubs" springing up.

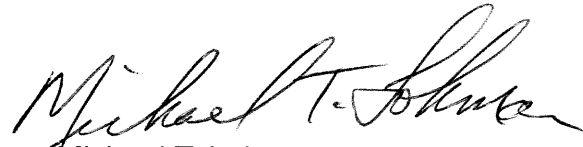
I read in the newspaper that one issue is individuals driving from Anchorage to continue their partying until 5am. Obviously in some cases this occurs, but in our bar we do not see it very often. I wonder who is attracting all these people? I have gotten to know a lot of the locals and some of the Anchorage people who come to my bar. The Anchorage people normally are the first to leave, not the 3:00am crowd. The late comers who show up after 3:30am are normally our own local people.

By closing two hours earlier, this would reduce the number of jobs in my business and I'm sure in others too. Our employees are concerned about this, it is their livelihood also. The trickle down effect

would impact city revenues negatively, but to what extent, I do not know.

If this issue moves ahead, I certainly would like to see the statistics that backup what both police chiefs have brought to our attention.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Lohman
Owner

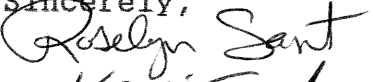

CC
K&L Distributors
Anchorage Cold Storage
Alaska Distributors

17 July 1996
1301 Ivy Circle
Wasilla, AK 99654

Wasilla City Council
City Hall
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Council Members,

We are writing to support the proposed earlier closure of bars and alcohol establishments in the Wasilla area that will be discussed at the upcoming council meeting. We are residents of the city and have been concerned at the number of drunken driving arrests that are made here and other alcohol-related incidents. We feel this step would be a positive one in reducing some of these alcohol related problems, as well as discouraging Anchorage area residents from driving to Wasilla to continue drinking after their city bars are closed. We urge you to vote to close city drinking establishments earlier.

Sincerely,


Kevin & Roselyn Sant

cc: Wasilla Police Dept.