

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Debra Samaha <dsamaha@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 8, 2025 8:33 AM
To: james.schlosser@gmail.com; 'Jim Schlosser'
Cc: * City Clerk
Subject: Sip and Stroll

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Councilor Schlosser,

I would like to request that this new concept " Sip and Stroll" for Concord be put on the November ballot and not make residents have to petition to have it put on ballot.

Thank you,
Debra Samaha

Bonenfant, Janice

From: RONALD RAYNER <eiwm@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 7, 2025 3:12 PM
To: * City Clerk
Subject: Social Districts - Coucil Mtg 9/8/25

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To be addressed at the City's Council Mtg of 9/8/25.

My vote on this matter would be - NO - do NOT place it on the Ballot as I maintain the City should hit the "Pause Button". Why?? Reasons are:

1) Multiple restaurants on Main St. & some side streets (Depot St.) already have a Service area that extends out into the City sidewalk &/or Right of Way; these are ALL Permitted thru the City. These existing (seasonal) service areas, in effect, already serve as a "mini social district". Do we really need more-??

2) Extending these Service areas beyond what they already serve or allowing restaurants that presently do not participate in this program would just add another layer of responsibility on the existing Police Force to monitor & possibly respond to any conflicts.

3) What Guidance has the State provided as to how these "Social Districts" could/should be established-? Any-? 😊

4) I would surmise that some communities will Approve to place this measure on their ballot; I say allow them to do so & we here in Concord should take a couple of years & observe their results. Hit the PAUSE Button & Observe how Others do & their results -

Ron Rayner

Bonenfant, Janice

From: pemigw1@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2025 4:20 PM
To: 'BYRON CHAMPLIN'
Cc: * City Clerk
Subject: Vote No on Social Districts

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Hi Byron. Thanks for explaining "social districts". Curious if any Concord businesses think this would benefit them, and how the City would enforce it.

Dear City Councilors: I'd say keep things as they are and ask that you vote "NO" on Concord having Social Districts, as defined in HB 467.

Thank you!

Boyd Smith
Ward 5
Concord, NH

From: BYRON CHAMPLIN <chamby@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2025 6:01 PM
To: BYRON CHAMPLIN <chamby@comcast.net>
Subject: FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Dear Friends:

Since kids are returning to local schools this week, it probably shouldn't be a surprise that summer is drawing to a close. Even so, it seems as if it's only been a blink of an eye since we welcomed spring. Where did the summer go?

Here is some information I think you'll find useful as we go into Labor Day weekend.

Social Districts on the Council's September Agenda

When City Council convenes on Monday, September 8, you and other residents will have an opportunity to **weigh in on whether to create "social districts" in Concord**. This is **an idea promoted by the State Legislature**, which passed House Bill 467, authorizing social districts, in July.

The law specifies that a **social district is a "defined outdoor area in which a person may consume alcoholic beverages sold by a [liquor] licensee."** These districts differ from the outdoor

dining areas already allowed in Concord during summer months in that a social district is shared by two-or-more restaurants or bars, allowing you to stroll with a drink between venues.

For a city, like Concord, approving social districts is a multi-step process.

First, the question must be placed on the ballot during a municipal (city) election. Although City Council is permitted to place it on the ballot without public comment, **we chose to schedule September's public hearing ahead of making that choice.** Should we vote on September 8 to place social districts on the November ballot, **HB 467 requires that we hold another public hearing prior to voting day;** in our case this would be at the October 14 City Council meeting.

If the measure is on the ballot, and if voters approve it, the city would then have to create a maintenance plan that must be submitted to the state Liquor Commission. The law stipulates that businesses that wish to participate must only sell alcohol on their premises in containers that are subject to strict labeling and size requirements. Plus, patrons cannot bring alcohol from one establishment within the district into another. More administrative rules related to social districts are expected to be established by the Liquor Commission in the near future.

Also, it appears that social districts can be established on a temporary basis, with limitations on the hours or days.

Unfortunately, **HB 467 requires that the following question be placed on the ballot: "Shall we allow the operation of social districts within the city" without further explanation.** So should City Council vote to place the question on the ballot, voters will have to educate themselves on what social districts are and how they might be regulated.

If you have thoughts on putting social districts on the November ballot, please attend our September 8 public hearing. You can also share your thoughts with the entire City Council via email by sending them to cityclerk@concordnh.gov.

Labor Day Weekend Closures

Remember that **City Offices and the Concord Public Library will be closed in observance of the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 1.**

Trash collection for Monday will be postponed to Tuesday, September 2. Collection for the rest of the week will be delayed by one day through Saturday. **The Concord Transfer Station on Old Turnpike Road also will be closed on Monday, September 1.**

Parking is free on Labor Day.

Coffee with the Mayor

The next Coffee with the Mayor community conversation is **9-10 a.m. Saturday, September 13, at Flanagan's South Ender, 250 South Street** (the corner of South Street and Ironworks Road). Drop by with your neighbors for an informal conversation about city issues. **Thank you to Ian and Devin Flanagan for hosting and to Laura Hinchey for helping to coordinate the event.**

Thanks, also, to all those who came to our August Coffee with the Mayor. We had a great conversation!

Mayor's Business Visitation – 603 Bar-B-Q

I had to opportunity to meet this month with **Ben Normandeau, owner of 603 Bar-B-Q at 126 Hall Street**. Ben is a Concord native and one of the young entrepreneurs vested in the city who are making it hum. As Ben said to me, "I plan to be here for a while."

603 Bar-B-Q employs six full-time and three part-time workers and has used social media to expand its reach. One Tic Tok video Ben posted has had 2.5 million views! There is regularly a long line at the door waiting to pick up their barbeque, which is smoked on-site.

Ben has expansion plans and **I met him along with staff from the city's Community Development Department, and representatives of the federal Small Business Administration and state Small Business Development Council** to discuss avenues to help make that happen.

As long as we have entrepreneurs like Ben in Concord, I'm confident that our future is bright!

Enjoy your long Labor Day weekend!

Byron O. Champlin
Mayor, City of Concord, N.H.

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Raymond Pinard <ray@raypinard.com>
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2025 9:33 AM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Cc: Raymond Pinard
Subject: Social districts - Against

[CAUTION: *This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe***]**

Hello Janice:

Please include this email in the Mayor and Council packages for the September 8th meeting.
Best regards, Ray

Dear Mayor and Council:

I would like to express my opposition to social districts in Concord, NH.

1. We have enough problems for law enforcement to deal with without creating new ones.
2. For many people when you get a few alcoholic beverages in them you start getting unintended behavior.
3. In this age of widespread use of alcohol and drugs we should not be promoting the use of alcohol in public areas.

Respectfully, Ray Pinard

Ray Pinard
43 N. Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-620-7500

Bonenfant, Janice

From: John Gaudet <johnmarcgaudet@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2025 12:20 AM
To: * City Clerk
Subject: Feedback on the potential Social District proposal

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Hello City Council,

If the idea for Social Districts is approved by voters, I understand there will be some type of "maintenance plan" created. I assume that would include guidelines and enforcement protocols, but that was not specified in the announcement from the Mayor. With that as background, would you please consider the following for discussion at the Sept 08 Council meeting:

- sharing a skeleton of what a maintenance plan would entail, just high level;
- asking the Police Department to comment on possible law enforcement concerns and mitigations;
- discussing potential advertising of explanations at the polls (if this goes to a vote) to give details around the question since the required wording from the state is obviously insufficient without context.

These steps would help our electorate make an informed decision. Without proper framing, I think people will pre-judge, and the opportunity will fail before it ever gets fair consideration.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

John Gaudet
41 Hot Hole Pond Rd, Concord, NH 03301
johnmarcgaudet@gmail.com
1-603-724-4541

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Gary Jones <g.steven.jones@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2025 2:06 PM
To: * City Clerk
Subject: Social districts

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The last thing we need is public drinking; as if courtesy and selflessness haven't already suffered. I am against the idea.

Gary Jones
50 Thayer Pond Rd
Concord

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Matt Hoban <matt.e.hoban@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 1:31 PM
To: * City Clerk; Brown,Stacey
Subject: Social districts- please include in public testimony

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Dear Mayor and city councilors,

I personally don't think the implementation of social districts as set forth in HB467 would be a positive thing for Concord. Market Days and other events have been proposed as potential situations that could benefit from social districts; however, I think that this would actually have a negative effect on attendance and accessibility to the events as all exits and entrances to main street would have to be monitored or restricted. Additionally more officers would be necessary at these events, increasing cost to taxpayers. At these events the beer tents are enough. When I've been to market days neither of the tents seemed to be even near capacity.

Despite my opposition to social districts in Concord, I still think that voters should be given the opportunity to decide. Ballot initiatives such as this drive voter participation and engagement. As that's the case, please pass the resolution and let Concord residents vote on whether they want social districts in the city of Concord.

Thanks,
Matt Hoban
Concord NH

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Jasmine Esser Lacerte <jasmine.esser@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 10:08 AM
To: * City Clerk
Subject: Social Districts

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Hello,

I wanted to take a quick moment to write in about the proposed social districts that's making its way through the city council. I am absolutely against this idea. I understand why it might be nice to get a beer garden or something of that nature, but I suspect that can be handled better through a one-time approval process as I believe exists now. Our police are already busy dealing with those who are illegally drunk in public. Please do not make them now deal with those who could be now legally drunk in public due to the impossibility of limiting someone's consumption who's allowed to drink on the street.

As this choice has far flung ramifications and possible cost increases (more PD involvement, more trash pick-up etc) I do not believe that allowing this to just be a city council vote is appropriate. As things currently stand I do not trust them to listen to their constituents, so I would like to propose that this be added to a voting ballot.

Thank you for your time in reading this. Please forward on to all councilors and the mayor if possible.

Best regards,

Jasmine Esser Lacerte

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Jeff Wells <jeffwellsnh@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 9:37 AM
To: * City Clerk
Subject: Social Districts - Sip & Stroll

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City Council, Mayor, and City Manager

I am writing to express my unequivocal opposition to this proposal and demand that the City Council put the question of its sanctioning before the voters on the ballot this Fall. This issue is far too important to be decided by our elected officials, and I do not trust the City Council to properly represent the will of its constituents without direct input from the community at the voting polls.

Jeff Wells
18 Samuel Dr
Concord, NH 03301

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Debbie Stauffer <msclaylady@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 3:52 PM
To: * City Clerk

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe]

I agree with this idea of open liquor containers in designated areas in the town of concord nh

Deborah stauffer