

The SAFE committee (Safety and Fair Entertainment)

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Safety and Fair Entertainment Committee (SAFE) is to reduce the crime rates in terms of the incidents following the 2 AM closing of the Gainesville bars. The current bar closing policy contains many inherent problems. The bars are abruptly shut down soon after the final call has been made for drinks, forcing all patrons out onto the congested streets. As a result, public and paid transportation are difficult to access or locate, and driving consequently becomes a hazard. Taxi services are over their maximum capacity, and the buses at this time are overcrowded.

The S.A.F.E. Committee promotes a responsible drinking environment with efficient and orderly exits of the establishments. Although the purchasing of alcoholic drinks would cease prior to 2 AM, the individuals could engage in responsible activity inside the establishment until 3 AM. This gives the patrons one more hour to do the following: leave the establishment at their own leisure, locate available paid and public transportation, and as a result, have a less chaotic, more efficient exit.

The committee encourages responsible behavior by the individuals in the Gainesville community. By extending the bar closing time, this proposal allows individuals who participate in Gainesville nightlife the opportunity to make a sensible decision concerning when to vacate the establishments. This extension would aid in alleviating the current problems of excessive crowding, violence, and crime.

Community, University, and student partnerships:

UF ALCOHOL AND DRUG SURVEY FINDINGS:

“Since the Beginning of the school year, have you attended or seen the following alcohol/drug prevention materials or programs?”

Classroom lecture on alcohol or drugs:

1995- 32.7%, 1997- 19.9%, 1999- 15.5%, 2002- 10.2% (going down each year, need for more education!)

Education- Information on all programs and services addressing alcohol and drug education. (Preview, first year Florida classes, Greek education, residence hall assistant education) Since the beginning of the school year, Gator Well health services, student mental health care services, UF committee on alcohol and drug policy, mystudentbody.com)

The University of Florida is soliciting a much more academic Student Body.

Freshman class for 2004: GPA: 3.8-4.3 SAT: 1200-1380

- **Marketing-** start a comprehensive marketing campaign incorporating printed materials informing students of available transportation, “tow and go,” the effects that alcohol has on their system, and other pertinent information: police, AAA, tow truck companies, taxi services, later gator routes, SNAP, late night snacks, etc. We can do this in the form of napkins, coasters, posters in bathrooms, preview material, RTS buses, residence halls, etc.
- **Monthly round table discussions-** meeting with city leaders, university officials, students, and bar owners to discuss pertinent issues relating to alcohol distribution and responsible consumption.
- **“Tow and Go”-** Tow truck companies in the Gainesville community are willing to participate in this program where they will drive home intoxicated individuals who cannot drive. (Superior Towing \$25) Possibility of SG offsetting some of the costs and helping with advertising.
- **Later Gator extension-** making sure that there is adequate and timely transportation to and from surrounding Gainesville areas. Possibility of expansion of routes and the frequency of which the buses run.
- **Late night student activities-** The University along with the support of Student Government provides quality programming in a non-alcoholic environment. (Gator Nights served 49,001 students in 2003/2004, Museum Nights on Thursday nights).

The students at the university want to promote responsibility and accountability throughout the entire City of Gainesville where legal age patrons can responsibly consume alcoholic drinks and at their own leisure leave the establishment instead of being herded out all at one time. Other drinking factors including underage drinking, binge drinking, etc. are irrelevant to this discussion. The issue we need to maintain focus on is the extension of the bar closing time. The SAFE committee is not promoting a longer drinking period, but simply providing a safer environment for all.



Gainesville Police Department
BAR CLOSING REPORT
Public Safety Committee
DRAFT

#040424
 Norman B. Botsford
 Chief of Police

Thursday
 April 21, 2005

I Overview of Staffing Issues related to bar closing

- Bars currently close at 0200 hours, and there is activity in the areas of the bars and along major traffic corridors 30 minutes to one (1) hours after the bars close (until 0230 or 0300 hours).
- In the areas where bars are concentrated (Downtown and West University Avenue corridor), zone officers and other officers from throughout the city assist with crowd control, traffic problems, noise complaints, and other bar-related dynamics for a several hour period on high activity nights.
- There is shift overlap from 2200-0300 hours to accommodate higher call load in the city.

II Current Citywide Staffing on Shifts 3 & 4

- These are AVERAGE number of zone officers working each shift CITYWIDE
- Numbers were sampled from October 2004, January 2005, and March 2005
- Shift 3 = 1700-0300 hours Shift 4 = 2200-0800 hours

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Shift 3	14	14	14	22	15	15	15
Shift 4	14	15	15	25	14	14	12
TOTAL til 0300	28	29	29	47	29	29	27

III Current Area Staffing Levels Until 0300 hours

- DOWNTOWN AREA

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Zone Mike Shift 3							
Zone Mike Shift 4	1	1	1	1			
Downtown Unit			5	5	5	5	
Mounted Unit			2	2	2	2	
Overtime Officers				3	3	3	
Other Zone Officers				5	5	5	
TOTAL	1	1	8	16	15	15	0

- WEST UNIVERSITY AVENUE CORRIDOR (1300-1800 W. Univ. Ave.)

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Zone Golf Shift 3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Zone Golf Shift 4	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Mounted Unit			2	2			
Other Zone Officers			4	4	4		
TOTAL	2	2	8	10	6	2	2

IV Staffing Effects of Extending Bar Hours to 0300 Hours

- If bars closed at 0300 hours, there would no longer be a shift overlap to handle the extra needs of crowd control, traffic problems, noise complaints, and other bar-related dynamics.
- All officers labeled as **Other Zone Officers** in section III would be paid overtime for one additional hour per shift.
- **Additional personnel costs for the extension of bar hours are APPROXIMATELY \$1070 per week, or \$55,600 per year (based on \$39.50 per hour overtime pay).**
- There will also be some intangible costs associated with having the bar crowd out an additional hour
 - Additional noise complaints due to bar music and vehicle “boom boxes”
 - Additional traffic congestion and traffic accidents in areas outside the Downtown Area and West University Avenue corridor.
 - Additional time of zone officers not covering their assigned zoned until 0400 hours or later, resulting in greater opportunity for business burglaries and other crimes.

Report Completed by: Captain Ed Van Winkle, District 2 Commander
Captain Lynne Benck, District 1 Commander

Gainesville Police Department

Inter-Office Communication

Chief Norman B. Botsford

To: Public Safety Committee

Meeting Date: April 21, 2005

From: Ronald D. Combs
Senior Assistant City Attorney

Subject: Bar Closing Hours

The Committee has asked for information regarding bar closing hours of peer cities.

The incentive programs provided by the Universities are not verified as a negotiated quid pro quo for extended hours.

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS (University of Illinois Urbana)

HOURS OF SALE: Unlawful between 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM

HOURS OF CONSUMPTION OR POSSESSION: Unlawful between 2:30 AM and 6:00 AM

PREMISE HOURS: Unlawful to keep premises open for business or to admit the public between 2:30 AM and 6:00 AM

University of Illinois

Established in 1988 "The Illinois Network" addressing collegiate alcohol and other drug issues by focusing on five main areas:

Policy:

- Annually promulgate policy, consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws
- Stipulate guidelines on marketing and hosting off-campus sponsored events involving students, faculty, staff, and alumni at which alcoholic beverages are served.

Education and Assistance:

- Promote and support alcohol-free programming options
- Provide, with peer involvement, a system of assessment, intervention, education, treatment, and/or referral services for students
- Provide training programs for students, faculty, and staff to enable them to detect problems related to alcohol and other drug use

Enforcement:

- Publicize all alcohol and other drug policies
- Consistently enforce alcohol and other drug-related policies

Assessment:

- Assess the institutional environment as it contributes to or mitigates against alcohol and other drug problems and related violence
- Assess campus awareness, attitudes, and behaviors regarding alcohol and other drug use and apply results to program development

Campus Community Collaboration:

- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with external agencies, groups, and individuals whose operations are relevant to mission and goals
- Consider the inclusion of the following agencies and groups: law enforcement, judicial system, state liquor control license agency, hospitality industry (including retailers), local government, neighborhood associations, faith community, family/parents, school systems, area health care and treatment providers, and others as appropriate.

EAST LANSING/LANSING, MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

(Michigan State University)
(University of Michigan)

HOURS OF SALE:

Unlawful between 2:00 AM and 7:00 AM on any day

Unlawful between 2:00 AM and 12:00 Noon on Sunday

No information found on “must close” times and calls not returned.

Michigan State University

Through Health Education Services, the University provides for:

- Detox of alcohol, prescription and street drugs, painkillers
- Local bus system that students may use with identification
- 12 step recovery that includes environmental changes and required meeting attendance
- Internship available for students to enroll and volunteer to assist their colleagues in prevention

University of Michigan

Offers incentive programs through both the university itself and the housing division

MADISON, WISCONSIN

(University of Wisconsin)

HOURS OF SALE AND PREMISES HOURS ARE THE SAME:

Unlawful between 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM on weekdays

Unlawful between 2:30 AM and 6:00 AM on Saturday and Sunday

On January 1 - not required to close

University of Wisconsin

- AMOD “A Matter of Degree”
- Long term initiative funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and evaluated by Harvard University, with national offices supported by the American Medical Association
- Focuses on preventive activities
 - Addressing the dangers of house parties
 - Supporting alternative to high risk drinking
 - Limiting easy access to cheap alcohol

- Publicizing university policy and student expectations
- Involving parents and exploring their roles.

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA (Indiana University Bloomington)

State Regulated

HOURS OF SALE/CONSUMPTION:

Lawful between 7:00 AM and 3:00 AM the following day, Monday through Saturday
(Supplemental permit allows Sunday sales – beer/wine)

PREMISE HOURS:

When sale of alcohol not permitted, premises shall remain closed to the extent that the nature of the business carried on the premises as at a hotel or restaurant, permits.

University of Indiana

- Alcohol prevention program geared towards promulgating policy, programming and advising
- Student judicial system: Campus alcohol court where peers address disputes and abuse problems.
- Compliance checks on local businesses to ensure such is not over serving the customers in addition to adhering to the serving time regulations
- Free Transportation from the local establishments to the campus.

TAMPA, FLORIDA (University of South Florida)

HOURS OF SALE/CONSUMPTION:

Lawful between 7:00 AM and 3 AM the following day, Monday - Saturday.

Lawful between 11:00 PM on Sunday and ending at 3:00 AM of the following day.

PREMISE HOURS:

Unlawful to be or remain open for the transaction of any business of any kind whatsoever at any time other than [when alcohol sale is permitted.]

University of South Florida

- Alcohol 101: An interactive Computerized CD Program
- Classes taught by peers to incoming freshman
- Transportation recently discontinued due to increased insurance costs.

ORLANDO, FLORIDA (University of Central Florida)

HOURS OF SALE/CONSUMPTION:

Prohibited between

2:00 AM and 7:00 AM, Monday through Saturday

2:00 AM and 12:00 Noon on Sundays, except as hereafter provided

PREMISE HOURS:

Closed during the period of time outside of normal business hours, except as provided in subparagraphs 33.03(2), (3) and (4). [not relevant to this discussion]

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA (Florida State University)

HOURS OF SALE: Unlawful between 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM on each day

HOURS OF CONSUMPTION: Unlawful between 2:30 AM and 6:00 AM

PREMISES HOURS: Must close between 2:30 AM and 6:00 AM

Florida State University

- AMOD “A matter of degree”
- Long term initiative funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and evaluated by Harvard University, with national offices supported by the American Medical Association
- Focuses on preventive activities
 - Addressing the dangers of house parties
 - Supporting alternative to high risk drinking

- Limiting easy access to cheap alcohol
- Publicizing university policy and student expectations
- Involving parents and exploring their roles.

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA

(University of Georgia)

HOURS OF SALE:

Monday - Friday beginning at 7:00 am until 2:00 am the next day;
 Saturday morning from 7:00 am until 1:55 am on Sunday mornings.

PREMISE HOURS:

Closed to the public and the premises shall be cleared of patrons within 45 minutes after the time set for discontinuance of the sale of alcoholic beverages on the premises.

No Information from the University of Georgia

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

(Louisiana State University)

HOURS OF SALE/CONSUMPTION

Unlawful between 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM, Monday through Saturday

Unlawful between 12:00 AM and 6:00 AM on Sunday

PREMISES HOURS

Prohibited from remaining open for business between:

2:00 AM and 6:00 AM, Monday through Saturday

12:00 AM and 6:00 AM on Sunday

Louisiana State University

Students who are affiliated with *Greek* organizations are required to take on line testing regarding the use and consequences of substance abuse. The test is approximately an hour in length and students must score above 70%.

