

STATE OF MICHIGAN
LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION
SEMI-ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING

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Proceedings had in the above-entitled case
before Chairman Andrew Deloney and
Commissioners Dennis Olshove and Teri Quimby,
held at the Michigan Liquor Control
Commission, 525 W. Allegan Street,
Constitution Hall Building, Jacquelyn A.
Stewart Hearing Room, Lansing, Michigan, on
Wednesday, December 12, 2018.

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C O N T E N T S

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IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael J. Brown, Attorney, Carlin Edwards Brown PLLC
Lou Grech-Cumbo, Great Lakes Wine & Spirits
Charlie Cove, Dan Henry Dist/MBWWA
Conrad Haremza, MSA/Proximo Spirits
Janine Kravetz, Bay County Prevention Network
Kelly Oginsky, Hope Network/Genesee County
Prevention Coalition
Brian Pizzuti, RNDC of Michigan/NWS
J.R. Roskopp, Petitpren Inc.

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Patty Curns, Admin Analyst, Licensing Division
Wendy Dannemiller, Admin Analyst, Licensing Division
Lori DeClercq, Court Reporter, Executive Services Division
Anita Fawcett, Commission Ass't, Executive Services Division
Jason Geissler, Ass't Attorney General, AG's Office
Pamela Hamilton, Director, Finance Division
Kelly Hunt, FOIA Coordinator, Licensing Division
Erin Johnson, Salespersons/Labeling, Licensing Division
Kerry Krone, Business Manager
David Marvin, Manager, Licensing Division
Don McGehee, Division Chief, Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement
Division, Attorney General's Office
Megan Minnick, Manager, Licensing Administration Division
Liliana Paceagiu, Deputy Director, Finance Division
Sara Weber, Director, Licensing Division

EXHIBITS SUBMITTED:

Letter dated 12/12/18 to Commission from Michael A. Tobias
Four-page informational document from Mr. John Lauve

1 Lansing, Michigan

2 Wednesday, December 12, 2018 - 10:05 a.m.

3 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Call this meeting of the
4 Michigan Liquor Control Commission to order. A quorum of the
5 Commission is present. Commissioners Olshove, Quimby and
6 myself, Commissioner Deloney, are present. Commissioners
7 Clemente and Jacobsen are not present this morning.

8 We welcome you to the second of our statutorily
9 required semi-annual public hearings required by Section
10 215(2) of Act No. 58 of the Public Acts of 1998, as amended.

11 This hearing under the statute is being provided to
12 provide a public forum to hear from the public with regard to
13 the Commission's administration of the Liquor Control Code.
14 This hearing is being reported. So far -- we do have two
15 cards from folks who have indicated the desire to speak this
16 morning. So when you come forward, please state your name
17 and the organization in which you represent. This will be a
18 great help to us, as well as our Hearing Reporter.

19 If you have questions of a specific nature or
20 regarding a specific licensing matter or something that is
21 very specific or personally, you may wish to talk personally
22 with one of us or our staff who are here, as well, at the
23 conclusion of the hearing. With that being stated, we have a
24 couple of cards, again, from folks who have indicated a
25 desire to speak. First, is Jim Berryman.

1 MR. BERRYMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
2 I am Jim Berryman, former State Senator and former Mayor of
3 the City of Adrian and I didn't know I was going to go first.
4 I am here solely to thank the Commission. I wanted
5 to do it publicly. I have not attended a public meeting in
6 the past, but I wanted the Commission to know, throughout my
7 political career, the Commission has been tremendous to work
8 for and work with. But as my last five years as Mayor of the
9 City of Adrian, which I retired last year -- end of last
10 year -- the City of Adrian has a very active redevelopment
11 revitalization program going on in the City of Adrian. And
12 many of those projects were dependent on, in our case,
13 redevelopment licenses and we have been very successful in
14 working with the Commission, Commission staff in moving those
15 forward. Those projects would not have happened without your
16 assistance. So I just publically wanted to come to this
17 meeting and thank you on behalf of the City of Adrian;
18 appreciate all of the assistance of your staff because,
19 again, they have been outstanding to work with. So I am only
20 here to praise and thank you for your interest in helping us
21 to revitalize the City of Adrian. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Thank you for attending. Thank
23 you for your comments. Next is Mike Tobias.

24 MR. TOBIAS: Good morning.

25 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Mike, you have just handed us a

1 document. We will be sure to make sure this is part of the
2 record for this hearing.

3 MR. TOBIAS: All right. Thanks. I will read off of
4 it. Good morning, Chairman Deloney and Commissioners Quimby
5 and Olshove. On behalf of the Michigan Coalition to Reduce
6 Underage Drinking (MCRUD), thank you for serving the citizens
7 of Michigan. And I am a current supporter, also, and
8 appreciate all that you do.

9 I think you may know that the Michigan Coalition to
10 Reduce Underage Drinking has been concerned about the high
11 number of alcohol retailers in some areas of the State. And
12 the reason we are concerned about that is based on science
13 and research and things, kind of a task force of the CDC;
14 they recommend regulation of outlet density as a strategy
15 that will reduce excessive alcohol consumption and related
16 harms and I have got in bold, there, you will see their task
17 force finding from 2007, I believe, is when they made this
18 recommendation. It says:

19 "On the basis of the reviewed evidence, the
20 Community Preventative Services Task Force
21 found sufficient evidence of a positive
22 association between outlet density and
23 excessive alcohol consumption and related
24 harms to recommend limiting alcohol outlet
25 density through the use of regulatory

1 authority (licensing and zoning) as a means
2 of reducing or controlling excessive
3 alcohol consumption and related harms."

4 And then I was on the Michigan Liquor Control
5 Commission's website. I go in there somewhat often, but I
6 was looking around; was reminded, again, about you have some
7 information about quotas and things and local government
8 units. So I just started clicking on a few of those areas of
9 the State to see what their -- how many licenses are
10 available, that sort of thing. And you will see just, kind
11 of, a smattering of the following cities that are over quota
12 in some of the different -- you have, like, three different
13 categories of licensing, but Alpena, Bay City, Clare,
14 Detroit, Escanaba, Flint, Grand Rapids, Houghton, Muskegon
15 Heights, Perry, Pontiac, Saginaw, Traverse City, Warren -- so
16 there's a lot of, you know -- those are just, kind of, the
17 ones I looked at; just kind of clicking around and you can
18 see that there is quite a few over quota. So then I ask
19 myself, you know, I am not sure what this information is used
20 for. If it is used for when you decide whether or not to
21 grant a license or not, but my understanding is there is
22 quotas in place because they are trying to make sure that
23 there is not alcohol-related harm and consumption and that
24 there is a clear association between the number of outlets
25 and harm; those kinds of things. So I am getting curious how

1 it is used and I also -- the other thing we have come across
2 recently is, it does not appear that there is any historical
3 licensing data available on the website or even trying to get
4 it working with Licensing and other folks and we really want
5 to be able to have that historical licensing data so we can,
6 kind of, track outlet density over time. I know that there
7 -- you guys recently had an, I think, an upgrade to your
8 website or system and things like that. So if that is not
9 part of it, I encourage the Liquor Control Commission to see
10 if we can get that so we can start to study this problem a
11 little more closely.

12 As always, a big thank you to you, yourselves, as
13 well as the MLCC staff -- many of them are in here today --
14 and they are always professional, courteous, helpful when I
15 contact them and that is a great help to me.

16 If you have any questions, I will try to answer
17 them, but, you know, thanks a lot. Merry Christmas; Happy
18 New Year.

19 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Commissioner Quimby?

20 COMMISSIONER QUIMBY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 Mike, your statement, here, references the Community
22 Preventative Services Task Force, I believe, from 2007. I
23 definitely have not seen that. Is that linked on your
24 website or where can I find this?

25 MR. TOBIAS: You can go to the communityguide.org

1 and the Community Guide is a really great resource. It has
2 many different topics; one is excessive alcohol consumption,
3 but there is motor vehicle crash, you know, maybe cancer,
4 diabetes; but communityguide.org, when you click on excessive
5 alcohol consumption, you can see all of the different things
6 they recommend.

7 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: I'm sorry. What is this site
8 again?

9 MR. TOBIAS: It's the communityguide.org.

10 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Communityguide.org?

11 MR. TOBIAS: Yep. I will send you an e-mail that
12 has that information. It is very good information. It is a
13 task force convening all these academic people that study
14 different problems and then they recommend different
15 strategies of how to reduce excessive alcohol consumption.

16 COMMISSIONER QUIMBY: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Thank you.

18 MR. TOBIAS: Thanks.

19 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Next is Kathy Geiger.

20 MS. GEIGER: Hello. I'm from Sacred Heart
21 Rehabilitation Center and I have some concerns about alcohol
22 outlet density. We have a number of alcohol outlets in a
23 close proximity to each other in the community where I live
24 and I have heard stories from neighbors of times where they
25 couldn't sit on their front porch because people were walking

1 to and from the store and would say, kind of, disparaging
2 comments against the person sitting on their front porch. And
3 also, they actually moved to a different community to finish
4 out the school year from where they were living; from where
5 her mother was living.

6 I have also had people approach me in my own yard
7 on the way to and from the store. One lady wanted a taste.
8 She walked up into my driveway. Another man walked up into
9 my yard between the sidewalk and my house and he wanted money
10 to buy some food. When I offered him an apple or something
11 from my house, another man who knew him, later on told me
12 that he just wanted money to buy some alcohol.

13 So these are things that people in neighborhoods
14 have to deal with in addition to the increased traffic at
15 late hours of the night and there is one neighbor that
16 actually is moving because of an incident where a woman that
17 lived next to her was getting drunk on a daily basis,
18 yelling, screaming, causing concern in the neighborhood.
19 They would walk to the store daily and buy their supply of
20 alcohol.

21 So those are some things that can happen when an
22 alcohol outlet is not in a business district. It is smack
23 dab in the middle of a neighborhood. As our agency has been
24 charged with reducing underage drinking, this is a concern
25 because it creates a normality situation where people think

1 it is okay; it's normal and business says it should be. So I
2 am concerned about that and that is why I am speaking up
3 today. So I appreciate my opportunity to be heard. Thank
4 you.

5 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Thank you. There are other
6 cards, here, from folks indicating a desire to be recognized,
7 but not wishing to speak; Kelly Oginsky -- and I apologize if
8 I am mispronouncing anyone's name. Janine Kravetz; Mike
9 Brown; Mike Brown is with the firm of Carlin Edwards Brown;
10 Charlie Cove from Dan Henry Distributing; Lou Grech-Cumbo,
11 Great Lakes Wine & Spirits; Conrad Haremza, Proximo Spirits;
12 J.R. Roskopp from Petitpren, Inc. and Brian Pizzuti of RNDC
13 of Michigan.

14 Those are all the cards that we have. Are there
15 any comments that any Commissioners wish to make while we are
16 on the record?

17 MR. LAUVE: I want to make a comment, too.

18 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Have you put in a card?

19 MR. LAUVE: No. I just gave my name to the lady.

20 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Well, you need to please submit
21 a card, for the record. I will let you do that afterwards.
22 Please come forward and identify yourself. What do you wish
23 to say?

24 MR. LAUVE: All right. John Lauve is my name and I
25 was an engineer at General Motors for years and I have these

1 flyers that explain what I have wrote out. I have one, for
2 the record, too.

3 My concern is that this liquor situation is out of
4 control -- the growth of this distribution. Now if you want
5 to get gas, you go to a gas station and you can buy liquor.
6 I don't know what the numbers are. This seems to be a growth
7 industry. The grocery stores now are selling it and party
8 stores were the ones that were selling it at one time. So I
9 don't -- I was interested in what the numbers are from '17 to
10 '18; how this thing has grown. I heard him mention that some
11 of them were over capacity. This is out of control. It
12 should not be controlled substances sold in this fashion
13 anywhere you want to go.

14 The next one on here is the people killed; says 311
15 last year. I don't know how we are for this year. Then I
16 get this other form and it says 320 were killed. This was
17 from, let's see, Highway Safety Planning. But what I am
18 interested in seeing is: Of these 311, how many were the
19 drivers that were driving these vehicles and how many of
20 these people killed were victims? You know, they go the
21 wrong way on the expressway, the drunk person lives and the
22 family got wiped out. What is the number of people that are
23 permanently injured out of this total? This is just an
24 egregious number. I don't know. There is no -- it is hard
25 to find this information out. The DWIs, how many were --

1 where this is their first occasion that they were drunk? How
2 many are multiple occurrences? And the question I have is:
3 Where were they getting the drinks? Where were they getting
4 the alcohol? And I don't know what the number of drunks are
5 that are in jail, but those numbers should be in some
6 document that really focuses on the data and the information
7 instead of having to -- it is hard to research this and find
8 it.

9 And what I have, here, it says information. There
10 should be some kind of fact sheet that is posted in all
11 outlets so people can see when they go in the door, oh
12 controlled substance? Here's how many they wiped out last
13 year and what are the facts of this. And there needs to be
14 training. I was here last meeting where you had those people
15 that somebody had served and drank to one of the undercover
16 guys -- all these servers should be -- that are selling it,
17 should sign some document saying here is what the
18 requirements are. It is on file so there is no question
19 about that.

20 I talked to a child or person who was just 21 and
21 he explained how it all works. They just look these licenses
22 up on Google; put their picture on it and put it in the
23 wallet and nobody even takes it out; nobody scans it. If
24 they were confiscating licenses, calling the police because
25 somebody came in here to try to illegally buy this, the

1 occurrence of this would drop off. But the only thing you
2 can see is we got -- somebody served a decoy.

3 I put on here the tax increase and this is the most
4 egregious thing -- the beer tax. The beer lobby runs the
5 State of Michigan. It has been frozen for 50 years at 1.9
6 cents a bottle. Well, it is getting up to 60 now; should be
7 raised to ten cents a bottle and it should be increased to
8 inflation. I talked to Richardville about this. He said,
9 well, there is no interest in this. There is no interest in
10 raising taxes on beer, but we are going to get the
11 pensioners. We are going to get the money out of them and
12 give a free pass to the beer lobby -- a free pass; 1.9 cents
13 a bottle. Used to pick up a penny; now you don't even
14 bother. For 50 years that is how they have run the State and
15 it is unconscionable. These people have been paid off; that
16 is the only reason why this beer tax has been frozen and has
17 been a fixed amount for 50 years -- over that. You know, cut
18 the -- you can cut the property tax two mills if you wanted
19 to help business and help people. Or send the money to the
20 schools and have some alcohol treatment plan.

21 The last one is this expressway deal. I have gone
22 and talked to the Highway Commissioners and they said we
23 don't have money to put signs up. What do they have? What
24 have they done? They put a sign that says wrong way. Well,
25 if you're drunk, you know (sic.) you're on the wrong way so

1 you're going to keep on going. If you don't speak English,
2 wrong way, what does that mean to you? Nothing. They have
3 international road signs, do not enter. You have stop signs.
4 If you put a stop sign up there along the exit ramp and you
5 are going down and you saw the stop sign, you would at least
6 think about stopping. They don't even want to do that.
7 Well, we don't have money for signs. We will just let them
8 go.

9 The other problem that they've done is they have
10 arranged the exit and the entrance right next to each other.
11 So if you are, at night, you go there, there is no arrows,
12 nothing. I have done it myself -- started down the wrong one
13 because they are right next to each other. There is no
14 separations. The apron approach is all the same. They don't
15 even fix that. So, oh, it is too bad they have another
16 accident. Well, nobody is doing the job on even something as
17 basic as that -- basic. They killed a couple people up where
18 I am doing this. Some kid was drunk and at a party and went
19 the wrong way.

20 Here is a document that just came out in the paper,
21 here, where I am, in Holly. Michigan has the dubious
22 distinction of being the tenth drunkest state. Wow. So here
23 is what they had to say about it. They are quoting some of
24 these figures so that is, kind of, a summary. I have wanted
25 to get involved and read this and see what is going on. My

1 father was a drinker. And when he was doing it way back
2 when, I think the cops would bring him home and finally they
3 locked him up one time -- one night. But this -- I went out
4 with my mother one night looking for him. He came by me at a
5 hundred miles an hour. I couldn't even keep up with him on
6 the expressway at 2:00 in the morning. So that is what's
7 going on. I can give you 50 more stories. You have seen
8 them all. This thing has to be dealt with in a professional
9 way to control it; not, well, who cares. They can buy it
10 anywhere they want. It is getting them gas (sic.) at the gas
11 station is just over the top. I remember when you used to go
12 into the gas station and they sold pop. This one place, the
13 wall is covered with lights and it is liquor up to the
14 ceiling. It is unconscionable what has been created under
15 the guise of Liquor Control and I am asking you to start
16 doing this in a professional way and I am willing to help in
17 some way to come up with some fact sheet and do it so there
18 is data. Even to find the data, it's hard to find out what
19 is going on.

20 So that is my concern on this and I -- this beer
21 tax, the newspapers, I talked to them -- ha ha. It is okay.
22 It isn't okay. And if the beer tax was at least ten-cents a
23 bottle, you would have some money to deal with this stuff
24 instead of them running the show -- running the show. That
25 is -- anyway, thanks for the time. But I hope you can help

1 get some data in a good format that can be handed out so
2 people can understand it.

3 It is ironic. As I said, they have 320 in this
4 document that were killed. The other one says 311 were
5 killed in alcohol related accidents. So they don't even --
6 unless a couple of them died after they wrote the first one.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Thank you. These are all the
9 cards we had. Any Commissioners have any comments or
10 questions that they have?

11 COMMISSIONER OLSHOVE: I would like to wish
12 everybody a happy holiday and acknowledge our staff; the
13 great people in the back of the room and there is a whole lot
14 more of them upstairs. They do a great service each and
15 every one of them. I very much appreciate it and that is
16 going to be on the record so the grand kids can read that and
17 a couple hundred years from now, someone can read it. So it
18 is there. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Thank you, Commissioner Olshove.
20 Commissioner Quimby?

21 COMMISSIONER QUIMBY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
22 want to thank everybody for taking time to -- busy time of
23 year right now -- to come to Lansing today for this public
24 meeting that we have twice a year. And especially appreciate
25 the written comments so we can review those even after the

1 meeting. Of course, we will have the record for the verbal
2 comments.

3 And I echo the comments that Commissioner Olshove
4 had about staff. Everybody goes the extra yard; works really
5 hard and tries to get questions resolved and licenses out the
6 door; so thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Thank you, Commissioner Quimby.
8 And I, too, want to recognize and acknowledge and agree with
9 the comments you have made, especially about this being a
10 crazy time of year. Just this morning at 8:15, there were
11 two different legislative committees that were meeting in the
12 House, taking up legislation with regard to alcohol and
13 because of the efforts of staff, we were able to make sure
14 that both were covered. I have a Senate Committee hearing at
15 1:00 this afternoon. I'm being called into a meeting with
16 the Chairman of the House Committee this afternoon to discuss
17 a number of items. It is the crazy time of year. Ironically
18 enough, if you talk to any legislators, legislative staff,
19 administration officials, lobbyists, you can't find a single
20 one who thinks that the lame duck is a good idea, yet here we
21 are. We are neck deep in it and we are going to be for,
22 probably, at least another week.

23 So with that, I do want to thank everybody for
24 coming here today and spending time with us. I want to wish
25 everyone a happy holiday season, Merry Christmas and of

1 course, if you ever have any questions or comments, you know
2 how to get ahold of us. With that, I will entertain a Motion
3 to Adjourn.

4 COMMISSIONER QUIMBY: So moved.

5 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Moved by Commissioner Quimby.

6 COMMISSIONER OLSHOVE: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Supported by Commissioner
8 Olshove. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor
9 will indicate by saying aye.

10 COMMISSIONER OLSHOVE: Aye.

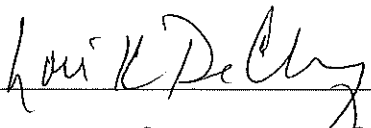
11 COMMISSIONER QUIMBY: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Aye. The ayes have it. We are
13 adjourned.

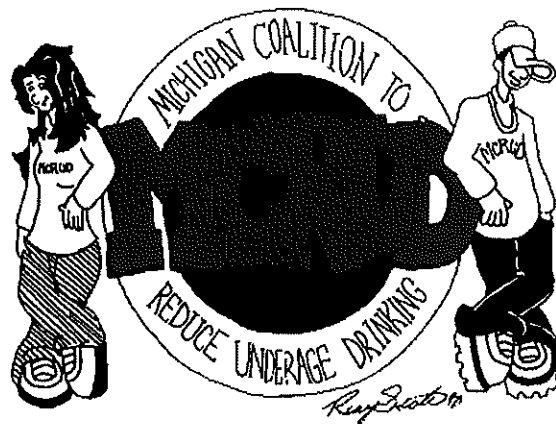
14 (Hearing concluded at about 10:27 a.m.)

15 * * *

16 I HEREBY CERTIFY that I reported stenographically,
17 the foregoing testimony and proceedings on the date and place
18 hereinbefore set forth; that the same was later reduced to
19 typewritten form, and that the foregoing is a true, full and
20 correct transcript of my stenographic notes so taken.

21
22 
23 _____
Lori K. DeClercq, CSR-3053

24 Dated: January 25, 2019
25



December 12, 2018

Dear Chairman Deloney and Commissioners Clemente, Jacobsen, Olshove, and Quimby:

On behalf of the Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (MCRUD) thank you for serving the citizens of Michigan. I and MCRUD supporters appreciate all that you do.

As you may know the Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking has been concerned about the high number of alcohol retailers in some areas of the State. In 2007, the Preventive Services Task Force recommended that regulation of outlet density is a strategy that will reduce excessive alcohol consumption and related harms. Below is the Task Force Finding:

“On the basis of the reviewed evidence, the Community Preventive Services Task Force found sufficient evidence of a positive association between outlet density and excessive alcohol consumption and related harms to recommend limiting alcohol outlet density through the use of regulatory authority (e.g., licensing and zoning) as a means of reducing or controlling excessive alcohol consumption and related harms.”

I’ve also recently reviewed information from MLCC’s website and quickly found the following local government units to be over quota:

Alpena	Bay City	Clare	Detroit	Escanaba	Flint
Grand Rapids	Houghton	Muskegon Heights	Perry	Pontiac	Saginaw
Traverse City	Warren				

After looking at this information I would like to know does the Michigan Liquor Control Commission uses this information before issuing new licenses in some areas of the State?

I also encourage the Michigan Liquor Control Commission to start keeping historical licensing information so the impact of outlet density can be studied.

As always, a big thank you to the MLCC staff. They continue to be courteous, professional, patient, and helpful.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Tobias
MCRUD Coordinator

NEED DATA TO FIX

John LAURE

Dec 12, 2018

248 -

320-2434

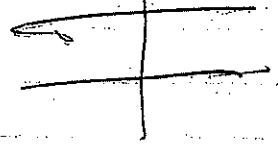
Liquor Out of Control

Growth

Get Gassed

2017 | 2018

Gas stations
Grocery stores
Party stores



People total

2017

2018

~~total~~ Kill
driver
victim

311

?

Injury Permanent

DWI 1st
Multi

JAIL #

where they
got drunk?

INFO

FACT sheet Posted
ALL outlets

Train - All sell/servers sign doc.

TAX

increase

BEER

1.9¢/bottle → 10¢

Fix Amt for 60yrs + inflation

X-Way

ON ~~EXIT~~ EXIT RAMP

~~STOP~~ STOP

Not

WRONG
WAY

BEER TAX

Frozen for 50 yrs

Property taxes, went up instead!

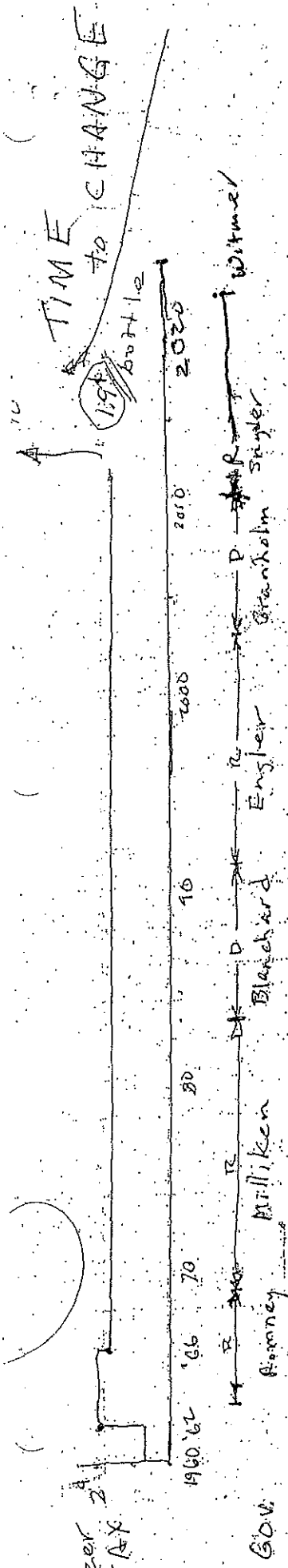
① Raise Beer 10¢/bottle

② CUT property tax
by 2 mills (from homestead)

③ Send \$ to Schools

④ 12¢ for Alcohol treatment + Prevention

L Mr. John Lauve
200 N. Saginaw St.
Holly, MI 48442



Sunday, April 1, 2018

11A

DRUNKEST STATE

Continued from Front Page

"One statistic in 2010 estimated that it costs the U.S. \$250 billion," she said. "About less than 10 percent of the individuals with alcohol use disorder actually get the treatment they need."

Financial news and opinion company 24/7 Wall St. analyzed data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to identify the states with the highest levels of adults who binge drink or drink heavily.

The data collected included the number of adults who drink excessively, alcohol-related driving deaths, and adults in fair or poor health, among other variables.

"Excessive alcohol use, including underage drinking and binge drinking (drinking five or more drinks on an occasion for men or four or more drinks on an occasion for women), can lead to increased risk of health problems such as injuries, violence, liver diseases, and cancer," according to the CDC.

Numbers

In Michigan, the data found that 20 percent of adults drink excessively, compared to 18 percent nationwide. The percentage of alcohol-related driving deaths is 29.4, which is the 16th lowest.

Michigan is the 20th highest state with adults in fair or poor health at 16.8 percent. The drunkest metro area in the state was identified as East Lansing.

Binge drinking is considered heavy alcohol consumption, and kills approximately 90,000 people a year, according to the CDC. People who die from alcohol abuse die 30 years prematurely on average.

Drinking laws

In America, it is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol content at or above .08 percent. Additionally, there are "zero tolerance" laws, which make it illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to drive

with any measurable amount of alcohol in their system.

According to the CDC, "These laws, along with laws that maintain the minimum legal drinking age at 21, are in place in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and have had a clear effect on highway safety, saving tens of thousands of lives since their implementation."

Certain laws vary state to state. In Michigan, sobriety checkpoints, which are specific locations for police to briefly stop vehicles and check for drunk drivers, are not allowed. However, Michigan does allow ignition interlocks, which

are devices installed in cars that measure alcohol on the driver's breath. The car will not start if the BAC (blood alcohol content) is above a certain level.

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The best and worst states

The five best states with adults who binge drink the least include Tennessee at number 50, West Virginia, Utah, Alabama and Mississippi.

According to worldstlas.com, three states, Kansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee, are entirely dry by default, meaning counties specifically must authorize the sale of alcohol in order for it to be legal and subject to state liquor control laws. Alabama specifically allows cities and counties to elect to go dry by public referendum.

The five worst states are North Dakota at number one, Wisconsin, Alaska, Montana and Illinois. In North Dakota, 24.7 percent of adults drink excessively and 46.7 percent of fatal crashes involve alcohol.

According to the CDC, approximately two in five violent deaths and one in four emergency room visits for violent-related injuries are due to excessive alcohol use.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELLO

This home on Worcester Drive in Fenton must undergo structural repairs after a vehicle crashed into it at 4:15 a.m. on March 28.

DRUNK DRIVER

Continued from Front Page

The driver, who was not injured, was arrested and transported to the police station where he registered 18 blood alcohol content. His vehicle was recovered from the home.

Cross said the home was secured and the city's building inspector indicated the house was not structurally sound and repairs are necessary before the residents could move back in.

Michigan has dubious distinction of being 10th drunkest state

■ Approximately 20 percent of Michigan adults drink excessively

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Michigan ranks 10th in the country for the number

of adults who binge drink or drink heavily.

Katie Baxter, clinical services project manager for Genesee Health Systems, said, "Alcoholism is fairly common, not just in Michigan. It's more prevalent than we think."

Alcohol use disorder can affect all socioeconomic statuses and races, and it is the third leading lifestyle-related cause of death in the nation. It also costs the nation billions of dollars.

See **DRUNKEST STATE** on 12A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

FILE PHOTO

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Michigan ranks number 10 in number of adults who binge drink



April 1, 2018

Drunk driver crashes car into house on Worchester Drive

■ Fenton man arrested after fleeing scene

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

A 35-year-old Fenton man was arrested after he crashed his 2008 Saturn Vue into a home on Worchester Drive in Fenton at 4:15 a.m. on March 28.

Lt. Jeff Cross said police were dispatched to the scene after the homeowner called 911

to report that a vehicle crashed into his bi-level home. The driver of the vehicle had fled the area by the time police arrived.

Fenton police requested a K-9 unit and the driver's scent was tracked to a nearby apartment complex, where police located him. Cross said the man admitted to crashing his car, first into a tree, then into the home, as well as drinking alcohol prior to the crash.

See **DRUNK DRIVER** on 11A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

SUBMITTED PHOTO

A Fenton resident on Worchester Drive took this photo after hearing a vehicle crash into his neighbor's house at 4:15 a.m. on March 28. The home will have to undergo structural repairs.



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IS IT ME OR MY MONEY?

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\$1.00

Weekend Times