

**CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

26-O-1085

AN ORDINANCE BY COUNCILMEMBERS JASON DOZIER, ALEX WAN, AND THOMAS WORTHY AS SUBSTITUTED BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE AND AS SUBSTITUTED BY THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL TO AMEND CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE I, SECTION 10-8 OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CREATE AN EXEMPTION FROM THE PROHIBITION AGAINST PERSONS OF LAWFUL AGE CONSUMING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN THE STREETS, SIDEWALKS, ALLEYWAYS, PARKING AREAS AND OTHER OPEN AREAS OPERATED AND CONTROLLED BY THE CITY OF ATLANTA IN A PORTION OF SOUTH DOWNTOWN ON PORTIONS OF BROAD STREET, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE, SW, FORSYTH STREET, MITCHELL STREET, TED TURNER DRIVE, SW, NELSON STREET, TRINITY AVENUE, PEACHTREE STREET AND ALABAMA STREET, SW TO BE DEFINED AS THE “SOUTH DOWNTOWN OPEN CONTAINER DISTRICT”; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta has an interest in maintaining the public safety and welfare of citizens of the City of Atlanta and its visitors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta has an interest in regulating and is authorized to regulate, through the lawful exercise of its police powers, the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages within its territorial limits and on the streets, sidewalks, alleyways, parking areas and other open areas operated and controlled by the City of Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, Section 10-8 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances prohibits people from drinking alcoholic beverages while on any streets, sidewalks, alleyways, parking areas or other open areas operated and controlled by the City of Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, today’s city planning and development strategies support dense, walkable commercial and residential nodes where quality of life and economic strength can be enhanced with shared spaces that allow for the consumption of alcohol;

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta recognizes and is invested in the revitalization of Downtown and the connective tissue Downtown strength provides to the health and growth of underserved adjacent Atlanta neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, although commerce gradually migrated north, South Downtown remains an intact core of a larger historic commercial district; and

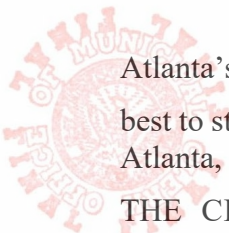
WHEREAS, in the 1950s and 1960s important civil rights activities occurred in the area, including bus protests and lunch counter sit-ins; and

WHEREAS, South Downtown is an area rich in history and character and a significant commercial and retail hub; and

WHEREAS, SODO has acquired approximately fifty-seven (57) buildings across approximately sixteen (16) acres in South Downtown and is working to revitalize the area into a vibrant, sustainable, walkable neighborhood district of shops, restaurants, offices, and residences; and

WHEREAS, with this redevelopment of this area of South Downtown as a key destination, it would be in the best interest of the City of Atlanta to allow people who are least twenty-one (21) years of age to consume alcoholic beverages while on any streets, sidewalks, alleyways, parking areas or other open areas operated and controlled by the City of Atlanta within a geographically defined and restricted boundary.

WHEREAS, the introduction of open container allowances in the City of Atlanta requires thoughtful structure, clear allowances and requirements, and consideration of all stakeholders, it is in the City of



Atlanta's best interest to limit this allowance to one location with a time limited period to explore how best to structure the allowance before any perpetual allowances or replication in other areas of the City of Atlanta, if desired in the future.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, HEREBY ORDAINS, AS FOLLOWS:

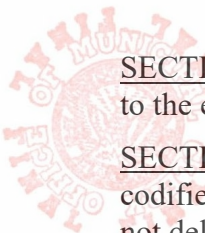
SECTION 1: That Chapter 10, Article I, Section 10-8 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances is hereby amended such that it shall thereafter read as follows (with permanent additions in underlined font and permanent deletions in strikethrough font):

Sec. 10-8. - Drinking in public.

- (a) Except as provided herein, it shall be unlawful for any person to drink any vinous, malt or other alcoholic beverage while on any streets, sidewalks, alleyways, parking areas or other open areas operated and controlled by the city, or while in or on the grounds of any MARTA station.
- (b) Further, it shall be unlawful for any person to drink any vinous, malt or other alcoholic beverage while in any city park except during permitted outdoor festivals pursuant to the provisions of Atlanta Code of Ordinances section 110-76(a)(5), or at other licensed locations within such parks.
- (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the sale and consumption of vinous, malt or any other alcoholic beverage at any convention center or sports coliseum, as defined in section 10-1, or in any golf pro shop which is situated on any golf course owned or operated by the city.
- (d) A licensee may prepare and serve alcoholic beverages to be consumed within an outdoor dining area as part of the operation of a sidewalk cafe. Open containers of alcoholic beverages shall only be transported into or out of outdoor dining areas by the licensees' working employees as part of their work duties.
- (e) Beginning on April 15, 2026 and continuing through January 31, 2027, the prohibitions in subsection (a) of this ordinance shall not apply within the following area:

South Downtown Open Container District: the area bounded on the north by the intersection of the western right-of-way of Broad Street with the southern right-of-way of Alabama Street, SW, then traveling southward along the western right-of-way of Broad Street to its intersection with the northern right-of-way of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SW, then traveling westward along the northern right-of-way of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SW to its intersection with the western-right-of-way of Forsyth Street, then traveling southward along the western right-of-way of Forsyth Street to its intersection with northern right-of-way of Mitchell Street, then traveling westward along the northern right-of-way of Mitchell Street to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of Ted Turner Drive, SW, then traveling southward to its intersection with the southern right-of-way of Nelson Street, then traveling eastward along the southern right-of-way of Nelson Street to its intersection with the western right-of-way of Forsyth Street, then traveling southward along the western right-of-way of Forsyth Street to its intersection with the southern right-of-way of Trinity Avenue, then traveling eastward along the southern right-of-way of Trinity Avenue to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of Peachtree Street, then traveling northward along the eastern right-of-way of Peachtree Street to the southern right-of-way of Alabama Street, SW, then traveling westward to its intersection with the western boundary of Broad Street.

SECTION 2: This ordinance shall become effective on April 15th.



SECTION 3: That all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby waived to the extent of the conflict, only.

SECTION 4: That the Municipal Clerk is hereby instructed to retain all legislative history references in the codified version of Chapter 10 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances including Editor’s notes, and shall not delete any such references, but shall amend them to include this ordinance.

A true copy,

Corrine A. Lindo

Municipal Clerk

ADOPTED as amended by the Atlanta City Council

MAR 16, 2026

APPROVED per City Charter Section 2-403


MAR 25, 2026



**CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

26-O-1085

SPONSOR SIGNATURES



Jason Gozier, Councilmember, District 4



CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

26-O-1085

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Workflow List:

Atlanta City Council	Completed	01/20/2026 1:00 PM
Public Safety & Legal Administration Committee	Completed	01/27/2026 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	02/02/2026 1:00 PM
Public Safety & Legal Administration Committee	Completed	02/09/2026 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	02/16/2026 1:00 PM
Public Safety & Legal Administration Committee	Completed	02/23/2026 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	03/02/2026 1:00 PM
Public Safety & Legal Administration Committee	Completed	03/09/2026 1:00 PM
Atlanta City Council	Completed	03/16/2026 1:00 PM

HISTORY:

01/20/26 Atlanta City Council REFERRED WITHOUT OBJECTION

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE WITHOUT OBJECTION

RESULT:	REFERRED WITHOUT OBJECTION	Next: 1/27/2026 1:00 PM
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01/27/26 Public Safety & Legal Administration Committee HELD IN COMMITTEE

RESULT:	HELD IN COMMITTEE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/2/2026 1:00 PM
MOVER:	Wayne Martin, District 11	
SECONDER:	Byron D. Amos, District 3	
AYES:	Andrea L. Boone, Byron D. Amos, Thomas Worthy, Wayne Martin	
ABSENT:	Dustin Hillis, Antonio Lewis, Michael Julian Bond	

02/02/26 Atlanta City Council RETURNED AS HELD

RETURNED AS HELD TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE WITHOUT OBJECTION



26-O-1085

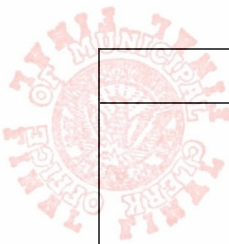
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VOTE RECORD - ORDINANCE 26-O-1085							
<input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED <input type="checkbox"/> ADVERSED <input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE <input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED AND FILED <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST READING <input type="checkbox"/> SECOND READING <input type="checkbox"/> THIRD READING <input type="checkbox"/> FOURTH READING <input type="checkbox"/> FIFTH READING <input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED TO COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> HELD IN COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> TABLED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> RECONSIDERED <input type="checkbox"/> FILED <input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED AS AMENDED <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDED <input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTITUTED <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDED SUBSTITUTE <input type="checkbox"/> FILED BY COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED TO ZRB AND ZC <input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED WITHOUT OBJECTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED ON SUBSTITUTE <input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED SUBSTITUTE AS AMENDED <input type="checkbox"/> FORWARDED WITH NO RECOMMENDATI <input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED TO SC							
			YES/AYE	NO/NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	
		MICHAEL JULIAN BOND	VOTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		MATT WESTMORELAND	VOTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		ESHÉ COLLINS	VOTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		JASON H. WINSTON	VOTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		KELSEA BOND	VOTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		BYRON D. AMOS	VOTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		JASON DOZIER	VOTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AWAY
		LILIANA BAKHTIARI	SECONDER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		ALEX WAN	MOVER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		THOMAS WORTHY	VOTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		MARY NORWOOD	VOTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AWAY
		DUSTIN HILLIS	VOTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		ANDREA L. BOONE	VOTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		WAYNE MARTIN	VOTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AWAY
		ANTONIO LEWIS	VOTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> FILED WITHOUT OBJECTION<input type="checkbox"/> FAILED<input type="checkbox"/> FORWARDED TO FC/NQ<input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE ON SUBSTITUTE<input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE/SUB/AMENDED<input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE/SUB/AMND/COND<input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE/AMND/COND<input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE AS AMENDED<input type="checkbox"/> RETURNED AS HELD<input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE ON CONDITION<input type="checkbox"/> FAVORABLE/SUB/CONDITION<input type="checkbox"/> QUADRENNIALY TERMINATED<input type="checkbox"/> QUESTION CALLED<input type="checkbox"/> ROUTED TO COW<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINED<input type="checkbox"/> OVERRIDDEN<input type="checkbox"/> NOT ACCEPTED BY COMMITTEE<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINED W/O OBJECTION<input type="checkbox"/> TABLED W/O OBJECTION<input type="checkbox"/> HELD IN COW<input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED<input type="checkbox"/> RETAINED AS HELD<input type="checkbox"/> REFER TO ZRB AND ZC W/O OBJECTION<input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATED (FILED)	
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[Unanimous]



Certified by Presiding Officer	Certified by Clerk
<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFIED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3/16/2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mami Cole Qualls</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFIED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3/16/2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MUNICIPAL CLERK</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Corrine A. Linda</i></p>
<p>Mayor's Action</p> <p><i>See Authentication Page Attachment</i></p>	

ADOPTED BY
COUNCIL 03/16/2026