

**Village of Clinton
Social District Plan
April 5, 2021**

INTRODUCTION

Public Act 124 of 2020 allows Michigan municipalities to establish Social Districts that create “common areas” where licensed establishments (bars, distilleries, breweries, restaurants, and tasting rooms) can sell alcoholic beverages in special cups to be taken into that area for consumption. The Village of Clinton Social District Plan will be shared with downtown businesses and residents and sent to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) for state approval. It is anticipated that the Social District Plan may be refined from time to time, as experience warrants.

MANAGEMENT

The Village of Clinton's Social District is created and managed by the Village in cooperation with its Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The district management and operation will be assisted by the Clinton Police Department, Clinton Fire Department, Department of Public Works (DPW), and Village Office.

DISTRICT BOUNDRIES

The Social District will encompass the north and south side of Michigan Avenue from Jackson Street/Tecumseh Road to Burton Street/Division Street, and by Village permit, the Brown Street Parking lot and the W. Church Street Parking Lot. The District is depicted in Exhibit A. The boundaries of the Social District will be clearly designated and marked with signage. Streets in the Social District will not be closed to traffic; however, parking lots may be closed periodically for outdoor seating with Village approval.

SIGNAGE AND BARRIERS

The Village will prepare generic signs as required by the MLCC Rules that identify the general boundaries of the Social District. Additional barriers or barricades as specified by the Village will be required when the area utilized is within a public parking lot and/or on a public street or sidewalk. The Village may assist in coordination between the permitted establishments to minimize the necessary investment in additional barriers/barricades.

POTENTIAL PARTICIPATING LICENSE HOLDERS

Participating license holders must sign a Social District Agreement with the Village, and must have an approved Social District permit issued by the MLCC. This allows a license holder to sell alcoholic beverages in special district cups, in its service area, to be taken into the Social District for consumption.

NON-ALCOHOL BUSINESSES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Businesses located within the Social District that do not sell alcoholic beverages are still considered to be part of the district. Social District beverages cannot be taken into other places of business, but may be consumed outdoors in the district.

OPERATIONS

The Village of Clinton's Social District will operate year-round, seven days a week. The common areas will be open from noon until midnight each day, with the exception of Fall Festival the hours will be from 6:00 pm - midnight. 'Last Call' will be 11:00 pm at which time beverages must stop being sold in Social District Cups. After midnight, the Social District beverages cannot be possessed in the District.

SOCIAL DISTRICT LOGO AND BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

The Village of Clinton Social District may seek a branded name and distinctive logo for marketing purposes. It will have a special logo for use on the non-glass beverage cups of no more than 16 ounces. The cups may not be reused and may not be taken into any establishment.

SECURITY AND ENFORCEMENT

Security and enforcement in the Village of Clinton's Social District will be provided by the Clinton Police Department. At this point, we do not envision the District getting too congested or problematic to warrant more than the existing routine police coverage. If problems develop in the District, the Village and businesses can work to address the problems or the Village can dissolve the District.

INSURANCE

The Village will insure its management and operation of the Village of Clinton's Social District through its municipal insurance policy. Participating license holders will be expected to secure their own liability insurance.

SANITATION

The Village of Clinton Department of Public Works will provide sanitation within the district including trash removal and litter pick up on an as-needed basis. Each licensed establishment that is issued a social district permit must provide an empty trash/recycling receptacle at the entrance to their establishment, and pick up litter near their business regularly. If litter becomes a problem, the participating businesses may have to spend more time cleaning the Social District, help pay for a company to perform the service, or have their Village Social District permit revoked.

FESTIVALS/SPECIAL EVENTS

PA 124 of 2020 does not allow special event liquor licenses to participate in a Social District. If a special license is issued for a private event within the Social District, the license holder of the permit shall not sell and serve alcoholic liquor in the Social District cups during the effective period of the special event license. Parking Lot use is not considered a Special Event, but requires a separate permit by the Village to block off that location.

Rules

1. Cups are allowed daily between noon and midnight.
2. Patrons cannot carry cups into another business location. They must remain outdoors.
3. Cups must stay within THE V.O.C. Look for signs that indicate the boundaries.

FAQs

1. Can I walk anywhere with THE V.O.C. cup?

No, you must stay within THE V.O.C. boundaries. Leaving THE V.O.C. with an alcoholic beverage breaks State of Michigan and Village of Clinton open containers laws.

2. Can I take THE V.O.C. cup back inside the establishment in which it was purchased?

No, once THE V.O.C. cup has left a business, it must be consumed before you enter any establishment. This includes reentering the business in which it was purchased or entering a new business.

3. Can I take an empty THE V.O.C. cup into a business so I can reuse it?

No, you must throw your cup away before entering any business.

4. What types of alcoholic beverage can I have in THE V.O.C. cup?

Beer, wine, and liquor are all allowable drinks in THE V.O.C. cups. Drinks must be purchased inside a participating business.

5. Can I bring my own alcoholic beverage, pour it into THE V.O.C. cup, and walk around in THE V.O.C.?

No, only drinks purchased from businesses participating in THE V.O.C. are allowed. No cans, glass bottles, or outside drinks are permitted within the boundaries per State of Michigan law.

Map Key for Social District

Yellow = Social District area open during set hours of operation

Green = Social District area where a permit from the local government is needed

1. Atlas Distilling Company, LLC
DBA: Alevri Mill Distilling Company
148 W. Michigan Avenue

2. West Michigan Avenue Development Company, LLC
DBA: Johnnie's
124 W. Michigan Avenue

3. Huffaker Group, LLC
DBA: The Clinton Inn
104 W. Michigan Avenue

4. Captain's Lounge, LLC
DBA: Captain's Lounge
149 W. Michigan Avenue

