

Thank you for helping to advocate for alcohol licensing change in the City of Atlanta.

Current advocacy initiative: Allocate ample and dedicated funding in the 2021 City of Atlanta budget for APD License & Permit Division to expand the team with sworn and civilian staff and acquire digital tools to improve the application process and licensing enforcement.

Timeline: Call and write *now* - budget adopted in July 2021

Why this matters:

1. Recommendation to expand License and Permits staff was cited in the recently completed 2020 Performance Audit by the City Auditor's Department.
2. Current team is 11 members and should at least double to handle current volume
3. Adequate staffing will:
 - a. improve evaluation of applications
 - b. improve response time to violation complaints and investigations
 - c. improve response time to community leaders that are voicing concern
 - d. send a signal to current bad operators that the City is committed to swift enforcement
4. Alcohol licensee violations are directly related to violent public safety concerns and increased department staffing will allow for immediate and thorough violation hearings (Due Cause hearings) where punitive fines and suspension can be considered.
5. **Communities have a right to feel safe near establishments that serve alcohol**
6. Communities expect that our elected leaders **ensure funding** for initiatives that address today's safety challenges

How to deliver this message:

- Contact your [Council Member](#) by phone or email
- Record a comment for the [next Finance and Executive Committee meeting](#) (*call in instructions on agenda*)
- Record a comment for the [next Atlanta City Council meeting](#) (*call in instructions on agenda*)
- Ask your [NPU](#) ([map](#)) or neighborhood civic association to write a statement of support for this CLEAR initiative and send it to their City Council Member