



NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN DEPARTMENT
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March 26, 2026

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers, President
Board of Alders of the City of New Haven
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Dear President Walker-Myers:

I am pleased to submit for your consideration the attached order to amend the New Haven Zoning Ordinance to establish zoning regulations related to juice bars.

A **juice bar or similar facility** is a separate and limited area within a premises that is operated under (a) a cafe permit or (B) a cafe permit for wine, beer and cider wherein nonalcoholic beverages are served to minors and wherein there is no sale, consumption, dispensing or presence of alcoholic liquor, as further defined under Section 30-22c(1) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS § 30-22c(1)).

State-level regulation of juice bars is meant to reduce the likelihood of alcohol being served to minors within establishments like bars, nightclubs, and concert venues. The creation of a separate area allows businesses to hold “all-ages” events with reduced concern or liability of minors receiving or consuming alcoholic beverages on their premises. State regulations include several provisions that require establishments with juice bars to inform local police of large events, further encouraging public safety for this particular land use activity.

Potential to Improve Public Safety and Reduce Underage Drinking

The proposed text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance are intended to prevent the sale and serving of alcoholic beverages to minors and resultant underage drinking by prohibiting new establishments that hold a cafe permit from the State of Connecticut and establishments renewing their permit from having a “juice bar” or similar facility on the premises.

The City of New Haven has experienced several incidents of violence near and outside establishments that have juice bars and that have included minors, particularly Downtown. The scale is significant with 57 incidents requiring a New Haven Police Department response, at just five establishments with juice bar-type permits from September, 2025 to February, 2026. It is the belief of the City that regulations must be enhanced both at the State and local level. On behalf of our Police Department and Economic Development Department, I urge your favorable review and action on this matter.

Respectfully,

Laura Brown, City Plan Department on behalf of the Juice Bars Working Group