# Common Consumption Areas and Entertainment Districts

Department of Licensing & Consumer Protection Finance and Business Committee December 9, 2025



# History & Program Overview

Department of Licensing & Consumer Protection



#### **Policy History**

State statute authorized common consumption

2013 -2017 Denver explored concept and monitors other jurisdictions 2018 -2019 Denver conducted research, outreach, and policy development

2021

Denver pilot program went into effect



#### Liquor Common Consumption: Other Cities







#### Common Consumption Area (CCA)

- A licensed premise where patrons over the age of 21 can consume alcohol purchased from existing liquor-licensed establishments.
- Each CCA must be located within an ED.

## Entertainment District (ED)

- An area of the city that is no larger than 100 acres and contains at least 20,000 sq. ft. of total liquor-licensed premises.
- Each ED must be approved by City Council.

### Promotional Association (PA)

- A group of at least two liquor-licensed businesses that join together as the applicant for a CCA license.
- PAs must be certified by EXL before obtaining a CCA license.



#### Common Consumption Area Licensure Process

Application Agency Review Public Hearing Council Vote\* Inspections License Issued

- Application will include materials regarding: PA Certification, CCA boundaries, and ED houndaries if needed.
- EXL will first do Quality Control check.
- •Office of Special Events, PW, DPD, DFD, will also review the application.
- Applicant will undergo a Needs and Desires hearing in EXL for PA certification and CCA licensure.
- If an ED is not already established, City Council will review and approve/deny the ED boundaries.
- EXL and other agencies will conduct the necessary inspections.
- Once ED is approved and all inspections are complete, EXL will certify the PA and issue the CCA license.



# Resolution: Creation of the North Wynkoop Entertainment District

**Council Member Watson** 



## North Wynkoop Application Timeline

8/4 9/3 10/7 10/16 10/31 12/9 Application Notice of Public Hearing Hearing officer DLCP issued Approval submitted to process for application held recommended Final Decision **DLCP** creation of sent to approval No opposition Applicant surrounding North Application present at the No objections began neighborhood Wynkoop included hearing were received inspections and posted at **Entertainment** evidence of the premises District begins community at City Council support

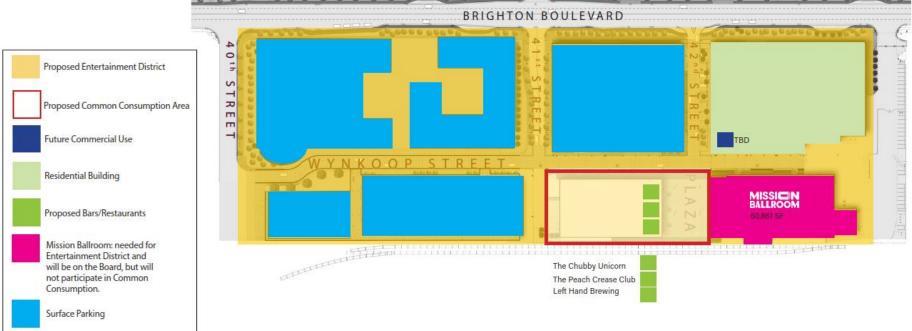


#### North Wynkoop Site Map





#### North Wynkoop Site Map





## **Resolution Summary**

- Creation of the Entertainment District is supported by the neighborhood.
- DLCP cannot issue the **common consumption area license** until an Entertainment District is created by City Council, per state law.
- Creation of this Entertainment District does not change any other zoning, noise, or other codes that apply in the area.



# Bill: Repeal of D.R.M.C. 6-23

Department of Licensing & Consumer Protection



### Repealing the Sunset Date

#### **Denver's Pilot Program**

- The ordinance and rules went into effect on June 1, 2021.
- Per D.R.M.C. section 6-23, the program is set to sunset on June 1, 2026.

#### Denver Entertainment Districts and CCA licensees

- Currently, Denver has zero
   Entertainment Districts and zero licensed common consumption areas.
- Our first licensee has been approved by DLCP and is seeking establishment of an Entertainment District today.

#### The Issue

- Without a repeal of the sunset, our first and only
   CCA licensee would not be able to continue operation past their license expiration date.
- Allowing the program to sunset would remove this tool for placemaking and activation.



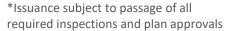
## Bill Summary

- All <u>state and local requirements</u> for common consumption area licenses remain in place.
- Changes to the common consumption area or applications for a new common consumption area would need to be reviewed and approved by DLCP.
- Removal of the sunset date for this program gives potential applicants more certainty to pursue place-making and activation through this program.



#### Next Steps







# Questions?

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#### Appendix: Entertainment Districts and CCA Examples

The first PA/CCA applicant in an area will have to apply for a PA, CCA, and propose an ED.

Once City Council establishes an ED, other businesses are free to form PAs and apply for CCA licenses within that ED.

#### CCAs can look different:

- Some may consist of kiosks or separate rooms in a larger, enclosed space;
- Some may be located in an alleyway closed to traffic;
- Some may connect to several freestanding businesses
- Can be permanent or on event-basis

