



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Middletown
CONNECTICUT 06457

SEBASTIAN N. GIULIANO
MAYOR

February 26, 2010

Governor M. Jodi Rell
State Capitol Room 200
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rell:

I am writing to support the opinions of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, CT Coalition Against Underage Drinking, MADD Connecticut Chapter, the CT Prevention Network, Regional Substance Abuse Councils and local Youth Directors all of whom oppose any new legislation to expand liquor sales to Sundays.

There are a variety of reasons for this opposition. First, economically, there appears to be no data that indicates increased alcohol sale hours will increase revenues. In fact increased sales by larger grocery or discount stores may jeopardize smaller business owners and specialty liquor store owners.

Second, several social policy reasons exist for the continued limitation of liquor sales to six days a week. I believe that we have a continued responsibility to limit the access of alcohol to potential underage purchasers. Studies illustrate that weekends are a primary time underage persons attempt to buy alcohol in the State. Adding Sunday sale hours will only increase this opportunity for underage drinkers. Another social policy reason to limit Sunday sale hours from a local perspective is the safety and security of our citizens, roadway users and drivers. A recent study in the American Journal of public Health illustrates that alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes increased 29% and the alcohol-related crash fatalities increased 42% on Sundays alone when a pre-existing Sunday alcohol sales ban was lifted in New Mexico. Finally, on a social policy level, data indicates that every increased dollar of liquor sales has the potential for increased associated health and social services outlays.

In totality, I firmly support the effort of the groups mentioned above to keep liquor sales to a limited schedule and format which excludes Sunday sales.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sebastian N. Giuliano", is written over a large, circular, scribbled-out area.

SEBASTIAN N. GIULIANO

Mayor