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TO: City of New Port Richey City Council

FROM: Robert Kochen, Police Department

DATE: October 6, 2026

RE: Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2026-2378: Amendment of Chapter 3, Code of Ordinances RE: Prohibitions on Alcoholic Beverage Possession or Consumption in Open Containers

REQUEST:
The request before the City Council is to conduct a second and final reading of an ordinance which amends subsection (c) of section 3-5, of Chapter 3, Code of Ordinances, which prohibits the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in an open container between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on any day in the Railroad Square Area (RRSA).

DISCUSSION:
Ordinance No. 2026-2378 amends the open-container regulations within the RRSA to promote public safety and align permitted hours for possession and consumption with licensed premises. Specifically, it prohibits the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in an open container within the RRSA between 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on any day, corresponding with local establishment operating hours. The amendment aims to reduce late-night intoxication and alcohol-related incidents occurring after licensed venues have closed. Limiting such activity during these hours is expected to decrease demands on law enforcement and enhance the safety of people within the RRSA after 2:00 a.m.

City Attorney Tim Driscoll drafted Ordinance No. 2026-2378 and certified it as legal form.

RECOMMENDATION:
Staff recommends that the City Council conduct a second and final reading of Ordinance No. 2026-2378, which amends subsection (c) of section 3-5, of Chapter 3, Code of Ordinances, which will prohibit the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in an open container between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on any day in the Railroad Square Area (RRSA).

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:
No budget impact.

ATTACHMENTS:
- ORD 2026-2378 Railroad Square Wet Zone.docx