COMMISSIONERS' ORDINANCE NO. O-10-2026

A SPECIAL ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALCOHOL SALES BY THE DRINK FROM 6:00 A.M. TO 9:00 A.M. ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2026, AND PROVIDING FOR AUTOMATIC EXPIRATION AND NONCODIFICATION.

* * * *

WHEREAS, KRS 244.290(4) and KRS 244.480(4) authorize the City to establish by ordinance the times and hours of Sunday retail sales of distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Bengals are scheduled to play the Atlanta Falcons in Madrid, Spain on Sunday, November 8, 2026, with kickoff at 9:30 A.M. EST; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to authorize properly licensed establishments to begin sales by the drink at 6:00 A.M. on that date through a one-time exception that does not add text to the Covington Code of Ordinances;

NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY:

Section 1

Temporary Authorization.

(A) Pursuant to KRS 244.290(4) and KRS 244.480(4), and notwithstanding the hours of operation and sales restrictions in Section 112.02 of the Covington Code of Ordinances, premises satisfying subsection (B) may open to the public and sell and serve distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages by the drink for consumption on the licensed premises from 6:00 A.M. until 9:00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time on Sunday, November 8, 2026. Sales shall be limited to the beverages authorized by the licenses held for those premises.

(B) To exercise this authorization, the licensee shall hold valid and effective state and City retail drink licenses authorizing the beverages sold, a state Sunday retail drink license issued pursuant to KRS 243.050, and a City special Sunday retail drink license issued pursuant to Section 112.08 of the Covington Code of Ordinances. All such licenses shall be in effect before sales begin.

(C) A licensee satisfying subsection (B) may exercise this authorization without obtaining the City special event permit or the state and local special temporary alcoholic beverage licenses referenced in Section 112.02(E)(4). Those requirements shall not be conditions of the additional hours authorized by this ordinance on the existing licensed premises. This provision does not waive any state law licensing requirement independently applicable to other activities.

Section 2

Limited Scope.

This ordinance applies only to sales by the drink on existing licensed premises during the date and hours specified in Section 1. It does not authorize package sales, sales outside those premises, or the use of public property without otherwise required approval. All other applicable state and local laws, regulations, and license conditions remain in effect.

Section 3

Expiration and Noncodification.

(A) The temporary authorization and exceptions established by this ordinance expire automatically at 9:00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time on November 8, 2026, without further action by the Board of Commissioners. At and after that time, the otherwise applicable provisions of Chapter 112 shall govern all hours of operation and sales.

(B) This is a special ordinance of temporary operation. It shall not be incorporated into the text of the Covington Code of Ordinances or assigned a section or subsection number in Chapter 112. The City Clerk shall retain and index it in the City's permanent ordinance records pursuant to KRS 83A.060(8). The Clerk shall advise the codifier of this noncodification direction. No subsequent ordinance shall be required to terminate the temporary authorization.

Section 4

Preservation of Existing Ordinances.

The provisions of this ordinance control only to the extent necessary to give effect to the temporary authorization in Section 1. No existing ordinance or Code provision is repealed, and the codified text of Sections 112.02 and 112.08 remains unchanged. The expiration of this ordinance's temporary authorization does not affect the legality of sales made in compliance with it.

Section 5

That this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force upon its passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

Ronald L. Washington

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

Susan Ellis

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CITY CLERK

Passed: October 27, 2026 (Second Reading)
October 20, 2026 (First Reading)