

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
2200 Camp Branch Road
Waynesville, NC 28786
June 11, 2023

Subject: Social Drinking Surveys - Town Council running a stacked survey?

There are two surveys running concurrently about how people feel about Social Drinking in Waynesville, and it's time to sit back and analyze both of them. They are:

- Survey initiated by Beth Gilmore (not in bold) representing the Downtown Waynesville Commission,
- www.change.org initiated by Concerned Citizens of Haywood.

Presumably, the Downtown Waynesville Commission had the blessing of the Waynesville Town Council, which are:

- **Gary Caldwell**
- **Jon Feichter**
- **Julia Freeman**
- **Anthony Sutton**
- **Chuck Dickson**

The Survey by Beth Gilmore has received prominent attention in the mountaineer, local liberal newspaper, showing the results of the survey that 90% of the respondents are in Favor, while the www.change.org survey, started 6/6/2023 shows 100% of the people against it.

[Agenda for our upcoming Town Council meeting on Tuesday, June 13th at 6pm, Town Hall Board Room located at 9 S. Main St. Call for a Public Hearing: Social District Implementation Recommendations within the Downtown Municipal Service District. 6/8/2023...](#)

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/230608-23-June-13Agenda-TownCouncil-FULL.pdf>

<https://www.change.org/p/vote-no-to-public-drinking-on-the-streets-of-waynesville>

I never saw a copy of Beth Gilmore's survey, so I can't comment about the nature of the survey or how the questions were presented.

I can comment about the nature of the Concerned Citizen's survey, which is duplicated here:

[Is Public Drinking on our streets a good idea or will it increase our crime and litter, and decrease the safety of our children? The Downtown Waynesville Commission clearly didn't have families and children in mind when they decided to recommend public drinking on the streets of Waynesville. We have families with children who live in town and visit our town. Hendersonville and the city of Asheville have voted NO to Social Drinking Districts. Let's make our voices heard as we stand together to say NO to public drinking in downtown Waynesville from the hours of 10AM to 10PM.](#)

There are a couple of glaring problems with the Downtown Waynesville Commission survey, which is the focus of this piece. But first, let's take a look at each page of the results, for the Gilmore survey, then the Concerned Citizens survey.

[**Editors Note:** 81 people had signed the Concerned Citizens survey as of 6/11/2023, 7:45 am.]

| | | |
|---|-----|------|
| TOTAL SURVEYS | 100 | |
| | # | % |
| NOT IN FAVOR | 10 | 10 |
| IN FAVOR | 90 | 90 |
| IN FAVOR- All the time | 59 | 65.5 |
| IN FAVOR- Certain days/times | 16 | 17.7 |
| IN FAVOR- Events only | 15 | 16.6 |
| | | |
| | | |
| PARTICIPANTS | # | % |
| Employees | 47 | 47 |
| Business Owners | 25 | 25 |
| Property/Business Owners | 9 | 9 |
| Property Owners | 8 | 8 |
| Residents | 8 | 8 |
| Resident/Employee | 1 | 1 |
| Property Owner/Resident | 3 | 3 |
| | | |
| | | |
| NOT IN FAVOR (10) | # | % |
| Employees | 6 | 60 |
| Business Owners | 3 | 30 |
| Property & Business Owners | 1 | 10 |
| | | |
| IN FAVOR ALL THE TIME (59) | # | % |
| Employees | 29 | 49.1 |
| Business Owners | 14 | 23.7 |
| Property Owners | 6 | 10.1 |
| Property & Business Owners | 5 | 8.4 |
| Residents | 5 | 8.4 |
| | | |
| IN FAVOR- EVENTS ONLY (15) | # | % |
| Employees | 6 | 40 |
| Business Owners | 4 | 26.6 |
| Property Owners | 2 | 13.3 |
| Property & Business Owners | 2 | 13.3 |
| Residents | 1 | 6.6 |
| | | |
| IN FAVOR- CERTAIN DAYS/TIMES (16) | # | % |
| Employees | 6 | 37 |
| Business Owners | 4 | 25 |
| Property & Business Owner | 2 | 12.5 |
| Property Owner & Resident | 2 | 12.5 |
| Residents | 2 | 12.5 |
| | | |
| | | |
| SUGGESTED DAYS/TIMES: | | |
| Thursday & Friday evenings, all day Saturday & Sunday | | |
| 12 pm to 10 pm | | |
| Monday to Sunday 10 am to 10 pm | | |

Vote NO to Social Drinking Districts in Waynesville



Started June 6, 2023

Why this petition matters

Started by **Concerned Citizens**

Is Public Drinking on our streets a good idea or will it increase our crime and litter, and decrease the safety of our children? The Downtown Waynesville Commission clearly didn't have families and children in mind when they decided to recommend public drinking on the streets of Waynesville. We have families with children who live in town and visit our town. Hendersonville and the city of Asheville have voted NO to Social Drinking Districts. Let's make our voices heard as we stand together to say NO to public drinking in downtown Waynesville from the hours of 10AM to 10PM.

[Report a policy violation](#)

81 have signed. Let's get to 100!



- Annie May Flower signed 10 hours ago
- Tim Brooks signed 21 hours ago

Sign this petition

First name

Last name

Email

Dayton, 37321 United States

Display my name and comment on this petition

Sign this petition

By signing, you accept Change.org's [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), and agree to receive occasional emails about campaigns on Change.org. You can unsubscribe at any time.

The thing that slaps you right in the face is the disproportionate number of "Employees" participating in Gilmore's survey.

WTF?

47% were Employees. Employees of who? The Town of Waynesville? The County? It does not appear that they are employees of businesses, as they are broken out in a separate category in the survey. Are these all Waynesville city employees? Is **Elizabeth Teague**, a.k.a. **Liz Teague**, on this list? Well she lives in Buncombe County? Was Gilmore selective in whom she distributed this survey? Were all of the participants of the Gilmore survey residents of the City of Waynesville?

None of these questions were directly addressed in either the mountaineer or the Town Council agenda (re: www.haywoodtp.net)

On the other hand, the Concerned Citizens survey does not discriminate, rather asks anyone for their opinion.

What percentage of the Gilmore survey was responded to by residents of Waynesville?

Wait a minute!

This Social District move by the Town Council will affect not only residents of Waynesville, but any one in Haywood County (and beyond) who decide to come to the Town of Waynesville during these Public Drinking periods. The Gilmore survey may have been too restrictive - who knows?

We haven't even discussed the side effects of this new Social District.

- Extra Police/Sheriff presence required?
 - Maintain order on the streets
 - Additional cars for watching for DUI/DWI drivers leaving the area
- Extra trash receptacles for used cups/containers?

The Hendersonville Mayor outright rejected this concept. My bet is that the entire Waynesville Town Council will be voting for this concept/ordinance, who are:

- **Gary Caldwell**
- **Jon Feichter**
- **Julia Freeman**
- **Anthony Sutton**
- **Chuck Dickson**

The next step in this process will be a "Call for a Public Hearing: Social District Implementation Recommendations within the Downtown Municipal Service District" at the next Town Council meeting Tuesday. Why not come to the meeting and express your opinion.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
Haywood County Taxpayer.