



This St. Patrick’s Day, the Birmingham City Council approved the city’s first entertainment district. [The BJCC](#) will be presenting [the Uptown Entertainment District](#) to the Council for consideration during [the March 17, 2015 meeting \(Item 1\)](#). The district would be the first established since the passage of [an amendment to Birmingham’s ordinance on “Intoxicating Liquors”](#) in September 2013. The design for the “to-go” cups to be used by businesses were not subject to Design Review Committee (DRC) approval though they were presented during the end of the review process last fall.

[The Alabama State Legislature passed a law in 2012](#) allowing for “open carry” of drinks from participating businesses within the boundaries of a designated district (though drinks cannot be carried from one business to another). Several districts already exist elsewhere in the state, including two in Huntsville and [one in Decatur](#). Uptown is considered an ideal a test case by many for other potential districts to watch, including the recently renamed Parkside district surrounding Regions Field; the Lakeview district; and a portion of Second Avenue North. The amp below shows the proposed boundaries for the district:



The BJCC received DRC approval for the necessary signage identifying the district’s proposed boundaries in October 2014 after reviewing options since that July. There is no official word about how soon [the pole signs](#), designed by a local graphic designer, would be installed; it is also unclear as to when the relaxed rules would take effect.

During discussion involving the ordinance before the vote (unanimously 7-0; Councilors Lundy and Tyson were not present), Councilor Abbott suggested that the bugs get worked out in Uptown first before tackling other proposed districts. Council President Pro-Tem Roberson pointed out the

potential financial benefits related to this district and future proposals.