By KATHLEEN THAMES  
Advertiser Staff Writer

A task force on drunk driving is expected to recommend today a parishwide prohibition against the sale of alcohol between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

Representatives of the City Council, Lafayette Parish Police Jury and Acadiana Safety Association have been invited to attend a 5:30 p.m. meeting at City Hall where that recommendation will be made, along with several other proposals.

They will be joined at the public meeting by lounge owners, several of whom attended the City Council's meeting last night.

The Council was to vote yesterday on a proposed ordinance which would outlaw the sale of liquor within city limits during that four-hour time span. But it sidestepped the issue, deciding instead to hear the report before putting the proposition back on the table for a vote.

Multi-Faceted Issue

The issue of regulating the times that liquor can be sold is multi-faceted and draws a variety of opinions.

Darryl Schouest, president of the task force which will meet tonight, said its recommendation is for a parishwide ordinance.

"Absolutely," he said, adding that its recommendation also refers to liquor sales "in all places, not just bars."

The general consensus of the task force, he said, is that such a law would possibly keep some citizens from getting as intoxicated as they would otherwise without some limitation.

Parishwide Better

There seems to be more support of a parishwide ordinance than one which would affect only the city.

James Doyle, general manager of J.R.'s and The Keg, said those lounges would back a law prohibiting liquor sales at certain times, "if it's parishwide."

Chip Abboud, director of operations for the Keg Corporation, which also handles Gentry's and the Landing, told The Advertiser yesterday: "I don't believe you would find very much opposition to a parishwide ordinance."

But, if only a city-wide ordinance were adopted, he said, "We'd fight it."

With a city limits-only law, he said, "You'd just be compounding the problem (of drunk driving.)"

Some Total Opposition

John Trahan, representing C'Est la Guerre, said after the meeting that he opposes the law "completely."

"For one thing, this is supposed to be a convention city," he said, expressing concern that a prohibition on the sale of liquor in the early morning hours would hurt the local tourist trade. According to Trahan, other Louisiana cities, such as Alexandria and Shreveport, have 2 a.m. closing laws and are "hurting for business."

Councilman W.M. "Dub" Hudson, however, said the law can be flexible and exceptions can be made to address issues such as conventions held at hotels.

Early Morning Offenses

Hudson supports some type of regulation of the hours that liquor can be sold, pointing to statistics which indicate that many serious offenses, such as major car accidents and fatal shootings, occur between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

"We need something in the way of better control over what happens between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.," he said.

"I would like very much to see a joint effort between the City Council and Police Jury," Hudson stated. But if the parish is not interested, he added, "I think the city should go ahead and take the leadership."

Councilman Wilfred Pierre disagrees that the ordinance should be adopted only for the city limits.

"I don't think it's fair for the City Council or city administration to pursue this ordinance as long as the parish has not indicated its position," Pierre said yesterday.

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 1)
Task Force To Push For Early Bar Closing

(Continued From Page 1)

According to Pierre, a city ordinance would be an "undue burden" for businesses within the city limits.

"It's unfair for us to require this harsh burden on local businesses...at depressed times especially," he commented.

Pierre said he is not close-minded about a parishwide proposal, but has some reservations. He is particularly concerned about the effect on conventions and the way the holidays would be affected by a new law.

The District 2 Councilman also noted that the Council has already taken steps to try to curb drunken driving and alcohol-related crimes, by enacting a law which allows officers to search bar patrons for weapons and one which outlaws the possession of open containers which hold alcoholic beverages.

"We ought to weigh those heavily," Pierre commented.