

## KANAWHA IN REVIEW

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The following Metro Kanawha-related news and feature items were among those published in recent editions of The Charleston Gazette, Charleston Daily Mail, Saturday Gazette-Mail and Sunday Gazette-Mail:

### **Nitro** zoning ordinance ups distance requirement

**Nitro** City Council members can't seem to decide on a zoning ordinance prohibiting video lottery businesses from being within so many feet of schools, churches and other lottery parlors.

After months of going back and forth, council at a meeting Tuesday, March 2, passed the ordinance with a distance requirement of 6,000 feet.

"From March 3 to March 17, video lottery businesses shall not be located within 1,000 of one another," said city attorney Richie Robb. "On or after March 17, those businesses can not be located within 6,000 feet of one another, churches and schools."

The measure was first brought before council in December. At the time, it was proposed the distance be reduced from 3,000 feet to 1,000.

The idea was considered controversial, with some officials suggesting the move would help businesses and the city's tax base. Others, instead, urged the required distance be increased or remain the same.

So, council members decided to change the distance back to 3,000 feet - as established by the original 2004 ordinance.

Now, with the distance requirement being upped to 6,000 feet, some council members are worried.

"We are opening ourselves up to a lawsuit later," said member Joe Savilla.

"I'm against this. I was against it back when it started and I'm against it now. I don't think the people of **Nitro** or the churches are going to like this."

Five council members voted in favor of ordinance change; three, including Savilla, Rita Cox and Bob Fields, voted against it.

"What this does is to make sure that there will never be another video lottery business built or established in **Nitro**," said at-large member Dave Casebolt.

(Charleston Daily Mail)

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