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BIZNEWS

SoHo, NoHo restrictions

There'll be no mo' in SoHo — no more restaurant or bar construction, that is. The City Council recently voted to forbid the building of restaurants or bars at new development sites in SoHo and NoHo.

The decision is part of a broader zoning measure the Council passed that allows parking lots in the two neighborhoods to be developed as low-rise apartment buildings. There are 16 parking lots in the two areas.

The City Council has the final word on zoning rules in New York City. All that's needed now is Mayor Bloomberg's signature to make this a law.

SoHo and NoHo will become the first places in the city where restaurants are forbidden as a retail use, said Sean Sweeney, director of the SoHo Alliance.

The Alliance was part of a coalition of community groups

of restaurants and bars. Many stay open til 3 a.m., Sweeney said. "We will now have fewer bars moving into SoHo to disturb our sleep," he explained.

Sweeney is a big supporter of the area's restaurants, which he patronizes five or six nights a week. But he thinks there need to be limits to

THE REAL THING



LORE CROGHAN

their proliferation. Since 1996, his organization has kept heavy-hitting lawyer Barry Mallin busy filing lawsuits to keep new restaurants and bars out of the area.