**Exploring the Effect of Alcohol Establishments on Crime in an Urban Community**

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**1.0 Introduction**

**Background**

Urban planning in the United States can be roughly dated to 1682 when William Penn made it a point to incorporate Philadelphia as a planned city to serve as a port on the Delaware river. The laid out “grid” like structure of roads set a precedent in city planning and development. In 1811, NYC selected Central Park via eminent domain for use of the members of the community. In 1909, the first national conferences on city planning was held in Washington DC. More recently, in 1965, President Johnson formed the Department on Housing and Urban Development. These steps are centered around maintaining the quality of communities for present and future generations. In parallel with this concept, the number of community problems related to alcohol have been on the rise in the United States. In 1906, New Jersey became the first state to make driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol a crime. Several states followed and the degree to which an individual was considered intoxicated varied from state to state and laws evolved over the years. In present day, where the number of vehicles has increased tremendously, impaired driving is a major cause of deaths. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 28% of traffic related deaths are related to drivers under the influence of alcohol. The concern might be that a large number of alcohol related establishments might exacerbate the number of incidents that result in harm due to inebriated persons. This is of consideration for the well-being of our communities and their development. Therefore, it is advantageous to study the effect of these establishments in the community. For example, this information can be used to plan police and local authority resources and help them target areas of the community that might be at risk.

**Problem**

The problem to be explored is the location of alcohol related establishments and the local area crimes. The distribution of businesses that are primarily related to alcohol, such as bars, nightclubs and retail alcoholic beverage markets should be understood. The proximity, frequency and type of crime is the information to be overlaid and evaluated with respect to the business locations.