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## **Stonecrest Approves Winery and Vineyard Ordinance**

The ordinance allows winegrowers to apply for a special land use permit in Stonecrest.

**Stonecrest, GA** – The City of Stonecrest approved new rules that will allow wine-grape growers to produce and sell wine at their properties located in the Arabia Mountain Overlay District. The City Council unanimously passed the ordinance during its October 24 meeting.

The new law states that producers must obtain a special land use permit before beginning operations. In addition, wineries and vineyards are only permitted within Stonecrest's Arabia Mountain Overlay District on parcels zoned R-100 and on at least 15 acres of land.

"The City of Stonecrest continues to support local initiatives important to our residents, especially those that ensure the continued growth and success of our economy," said Mayor Jazzmin Cobble. "This law encourages a sustainable form of entrepreneurship that will help propel the tourism and hospitality industries in Stonecrest. The revenues generated from this action will provide additional funding resources, which will allow us to invest in services and programs that benefit both residents and businesses."

Under the ordinance, wineries are permitted one tasting room to distribute wine samples for onsite consumption. The tasting room may include a retail sales area to allow for the purchase of wine. The distribution and sale of alcohol must be in accordance with laws in the state of Georgia.

"Stonecrest is perhaps one of DeKalb County's best-kept secrets. We are a community that offers unlimited opportunities," added Mayor Cobble. "From its rolling hills to beautiful vistas, Stonecrest provides an incredible landscape for wine lovers and winegrowers to connect and engage with each other."

The law allows special and private events at wineries with the approval of City Council. All activities unrelated to wine production must conclude daily no later than 11 p.m.

Councilwoman Tammy Grimes who represents the Arabia Mountain Overlay District said, "I am excited to see another amazing gem in District 5. We have long known about the Davison Arabia Mountain Heritage Preserve. But eyes have now been placed upon the Arabia Mountain Vineyard. The potential economic impact stands to put us on the Agri-tourism stage. The intentional slow and steady development of this property will benefit all of Stonecrest for generations to come."

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## **About the City of Stonecrest**

The City of Stonecrest is located in DeKalb County, Georgia. The City operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The City is minutes from downtown Atlanta and Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. Stonecrest offers residents a live-work-play community. The City is known for shopping and restaurants in The Mall at Stonecrest area. Residents and visitors can explore nature or hiking trails and cycling opportunities in the area. For more information, visit: <a href="www.stonecrestga.gov">www.stonecrestga.gov</a>.