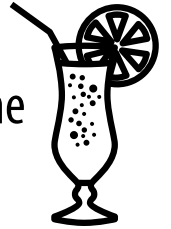


GO-CUP ECONOMY

MORE GO-CUPS ⇒ **MORE FREE BLOCK PARTIES** ⇒ **MORE POVERTY**

MORE GO CUPS, MORE SPRING BREAK: Those Go-Cups (Open Container) are basically a version of Spring Break where you buy your cheap beer at the grocery store or gas station and have a free party on the beach. Hence, the “millions” of visitors per year (1) don't pay a cover, (2) don't tip, and (3) don't pay top dollars for drinks.



WHERE'S THE CHEAP BEER IN THE FRENCH QUARTER? At the liquor stores and Walgreen's right around the corner on Canal Street. This plus grocery stores and gas stations before they head on to sightsee on Bourbon Street, outside on the street, and not in the bars or clubs. Go-Cups are a “Race-to-the-Bottom” marketing and sales strategy like Ladies Drink Free Nite or 2-for-1 specials.

WHERE'S THE MONEY? Let's also mention that Go-Cups and Millions of Annual Tourism Visitors amount to very little Sales Tax revenue for the state as Orleans Parish generates less than a third (or even just 25%) of what Jefferson Parish generates in sales taxes. Not surprising when you also take in the fact that 50% of Orleans Parish lives around the poverty line. Even St Tammany Parish generates twice as much in sales tax revenue than Orleans Parish.



WHO IS REALLY BUYING THE DRUGS Do bartenders and wait staff understand how Go-Cup hurt their bottom line? Not sure, but many of those in the FQ supplement their pay with drug deals as they themselves are drug addicts and alcoholics. Hence the reason why so many drug dealers hang out on Bourbon St. That is, to sell to their regular customers, e.g., the Service and Hospitality staff of the FQ and downtown.