The objective of this study is to define a 24-hour city and explain how increasing hours of economic activity affect a city’s economic “health”. This project will define the concept of various schedules of a city’s economic activity, because there is no universally accepted definition. Literature reviews of academic databases, urban policy research, and secondary sources were used in order to gain a crucial understanding of the terminology regarding the 9-5, 18, and 24-hour cities. From this, it was found that the 18-hour city is prevalent in the United States, along with the progression of a "night time economy" (NTE). Due to its relevance, the 18-hour city was included alongside the 24-hour city in this analysis, which was then compared to the traditional 9-5-hour city. Next, a preliminary cost benefit analysis was constructed comparing most prominent existing examples of 18/24-hour cities. This research suggests that there is a net benefit associated with prolonged hours of economic activity and an 18/24-hour economy is a legitimate public policy objective for certain cities, dependent on variables such as: geographic location, demographics, and culture. From this understanding, policy recommendations were crafted for the City of Philadelphia.

Isabella Santosusso is currently pursuing an Honors Bachelors of Science degree in Business Administration concentrating in Economics and Legal Studies at the LeBow College of Business at Drexel University, in Philadelphia, USA. There she works as a Research Fellow. In 2017 she began working as a research analyst at Econsult Solutions (a Philadelphia consulting firm) where she examined public policy and tax interventions. In 2018 she worked in the audit and advisory department of Comcast NBC Universal specializing in regulatory and compliance research. As of 2019 she has accepted the Vidalakis Scholars Fellowship which has allowed her the opportunity to work as a research assistant at the Institute of Mediterranean Studies/FORTH in Crete where she is now focusing on globalization spanning from the Greek shipping industry, and specifically the Aristotle Onassis interests. This year she also presented her former research on 24-Hour Cities at the 2nd World Congress on Undergraduate Research at the University of Oldenburg, in Germany.