

From: [Gary Tipler](#)
To: [Rummel, Marsha](#); [Verbick, Jim](#); [Verveer, Michael](#); [MNA Board](#)
Subject: Canopy nightclub permits
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 8:40:09 AM

Dear Alder Rummel and ALRC Committee members:

I urge you to deny permits for a nightclub for this site at 924 Williamson Street -- the decades-long home of Star Photo, from 2011 to 2019 the location of Plan B nightclub and since early 2019, PRISM nightclub.

As a former leading advocate for the Plan B nightclub, a participant in the Plan B/neighbors/city committee to address problems associated with it, and as a long-term witness of the transition of Williamson Street and the Marquette Neighborhood I have a somewhat unique perspective on the successes and trials of changes that have become part of the neighborhood's story.

The problems of bass noise/vibration, the frequent late -night clientele arguments and screaming, the litter, trespassing and parking all have had very undesirable impacts on the quality of life for residents within a thousand feet and more. I know of two people who sold their homes to get away from the problems. BB Clarke Park became another after-dark place to either have cheap drinks before or after bar or attain a greater degree of sobriety before driving home.

I was part of the conversation when the initial requests for permits were made before the Marquette Neighborhood Association board. I was known to the board and made what I felt was the convincing case for its slim approval -- and that was that it served as a safe space for a marginalized community, a dance place for LGBTQ folks -- mostly young who live within walking distance. There was none on the isthmus at the time. Of course it was also a destination for suburbanites and others driving from so parking on the sale-feeling Jenifer and Spaight Streets had an immediate impact. As with all most all dance bars, the clientele changed and it lost its original appeal. The deep-base sound/vibration issue was never adequately addressed (not covered by city ordinance) and likely never will be without a significant investment in the building. We know that is not likely to take place when redevelopment of the property could be the next course of action by the property's owner. All the other problems associated with clientele impact on the neighborhood can't and won't be solved.

The social contract, once again, is to socialize the costs, with neighboring residents and businesses bearing the hardships to ensure a short-term success for a nightclub in that location.

The current moving target of a plan would result in an enormous bar that would more appropriately be located in an industrial district or commercial strip, far from residences.

Please deny permits for this plan and use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary Tipler

The applicants seek "a Visual & Performing Arts License and a Class B Liquor & Beer License. Canopy would be a coffee shop with food service during the day and a bar/nightclub with live entertainment such as bands and DJs at night."