

**From:** [Josh](#)  
**To:** [Verbick, Jim](#)  
**Subject:** Legistar 58773 Proposed alcohol license for Canopy nightclub  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 8:12:45 PM

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Dear ALRC Commissioners,

I am Josh Meier. Own 917 Williamson Street. I operate the Schwa Tailor Shop and I live upstairs. I have owned my property since 2012.

I'm writing to express my concern regarding the proposed Canopy nightclub at 924 Williamson Street. This evening I attended the Marquette Neighborhood Association meeting with Austin, the gentleman applying for the liquor license. During the meeting it became apparent that the plans for the venue have been under revision and are, even today, somewhat uncertain. My concerns regarding the proposed venue are:

1) Parking. The current Canopy lease does not include parking. There is some type of informal arrangement with the landlord, but there is no provision for adequate parking. Discussions for additional parking are "in progress" but no details were provided. Parking is very limited in the neighborhood. I am fortunate to have off street parking behind my building, but many of my residential neighbors park on the street. Fuegos restaurant recently moved to a different location because there was not enough parking to sustain a 125-seat restaurant let alone a 296 person nightclub.

2) Noise. Hundreds of patrons exiting a bar at 2 AM causes a lot of noise. This is a residential neighborhood and the venue is surrounded by housing on three sides. Neighbors as far away as Jenifer Street had problems with the sound of the music as well as the bar patrons. Thursday nights were 18-and-up nights and there were numerous problems with loud and inappropriate behavior throughout the night.

3) The fit for the neighborhood. I was not involved in the original discussions regarding the opening of Plan B, but my neighbors tell me that, despite not wanting a nightclub in that location, they supported a place for the LGBT community. The feeling was that if we want to say we are an inclusive neighborhood we should be an inclusive neighborhood. The current proposal is for a nightclub without a specific link to that community.

During my time at this location I found that the clientele of Plan B were, for the most part, appropriate and respectful of the neighborhood. I got the sense that many felt they were stakeholders in the club and their behavior reflected the values of the community. I'm concerned that a different clientele will not share these concerns and will create far more problems than we ever had with Plan B.

The area has changed since Plan B started. We now have an emerging entertainment district on East Washington Avenue. A location in that area would accommodate parking, the volume of traffic and the level of noise at closing time much better than Williamson Street.

The young man seeking to open the club appears very earnest in his desire to work with the neighborhood to be a good neighbor. I am, however, not convinced that a new nightclub in this location has been given adequate planning and forethought and that it would be a nuisance rather than a welcome addition.

Thank you,  
Josh Meier