

From: [Heck, Patrick](#)
To: [licensing](#)
Cc: [Verbick, Jim](#)
Subject: Concerning ALRC Agenda Items 9 and 14:
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 8:25:47 AM

Please place my comments below in legistar for 76574 and 76495.

Thank you.

Concerning Agenda Items 9 and 14:

I am likely unable to attend your March 15 meeting due to a conflicting meeting, so am sending you input on these items.

The applicant proposes to open a nightclub (The Capital) at the former location of Blue Velvet Lounge. The applicant has indicated that they will serve food, but it will be less than 50% of their revenue, hence their classification as a nightclub.

This location is within the downtown Alcohol Overlay District, so they will also need a Conditional Use Permit to be granted by Plan Commission. I know that the applicant has been in contact with Zoning staff, but do not know the status of any application there.

From what I know as of this writing (March 13), the applicant has not yet discussed their applications with either MPD or the Campus Area Neighborhood Association. I have not been able to speak in person or on the phone with the applicant in part due to their not having voicemail set up. Suspecting that I needed to communicate with them in Spanish, I secured translation services via the city for a phone call on March 2, but when there was no answer, the lack of voicemail made that ineffective.

The informational meeting required per ordinance was seemingly hastily organized and from what I know no one was invited other than via their posted sign, if that is indeed up. I did receive an email about the informational meeting one day in advance on March 7 and notified MPD, but MPD and I were both unable to attend. I do not know if that meeting occurred, but assume it did.

Timeline:

Feb 17 - I receive email notification of liquor license and 21+ applications

Feb 19 - I email applicant with a set of questions

March 2 - I phone applicant w/translation services (no answer or voicemail)

March 3 (4:19pm Friday) - I receive a voicemail from applicant asking for a return call

March 6 - I phone applicant w/o translation services (no answer or voicemail)

March 6 - I receive email from applicant with some answers to my original questions

March 6 - I reply via email with more questions and suggestions

March 7 - I receive email from applicant with more answers and telling me that the info meeting is the next day.

March 7 - I reply that a one-day notice is not sufficient for me to gather stakeholders and suggest a delay in their application.

If further information and discussion doesn't take place before Wednesday's ALRC meeting, I suggest ALRC consider a referral of both items to the April ALRC meeting so that there is sufficient time for input from the city and the community. It is possible that ALRC can get needed information yourselves at Wednesday's meeting, which could address some or all of my concerns.

I otherwise take no position on the application, although the applicant(s) needs to appreciate that it is their responsibility to meet with MPD, CANA, and the alder to discuss their application and should demonstrate an appreciation for the issues associated with opening a nightclub in the downtown Alcohol Overlay District. I have notified CANA and MPD of the situation.

Thank you,

Patrick

Alder Patrick Heck
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