

From: Rummel, Marsha

Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2010 11:30 PM

To: Murphy, Brad

Cc: Kerr, Julia

Subject: BP Atwood request to change conditional use prohibiting alcohol sales at gas station
Legistar19907

PC members-

I scheduled a meeting on the high speed rail station tonight and will not be able to attend the Plan Commission.

I held a meeting Aug 24 with approximately 15 neighbors who live within several block radius of the BP Atwood to meet with the owners Pema Chozom and Ramesh Chhabra and discuss their request to remove the conditional use prohibiting alcohol sales at their gas station. The tenor was very polite and respectful but the general stance was no change should be granted. The owners presented a petition with lots of customers who support their request. I recognize that many would find it convenient to purchase beer but I do not support lifting the prohibition on beer/alcohol sales. Former Alder Olson told me it was one of the most difficult issues she dealt with. I understand that the condition is unusual but the immediate neighbors continue to oppose beer sales strenuously and I urge you to reject the request.

Several neighbors related the history of the Clark station before the reconstruction: robberies and battery. It was noted that the former owners agreed to the condition prohibiting beer sales in order to rebuild the station but as soon as the building was completed and a new alder elected they wanted to change the condition. Many feel strongly that a promise was made to the neighborhood and that should be honored. Others commented that there were plenty of outlets nearby to purchase beer. Some stated they were undecided when they came but after the conversation decided to oppose. At the end of the meeting, there was one individual who supported the request, had signed the BP petition and said that the owners are the best owners the gas station has had.

Apparently Pema and Ramesh did not do due diligence before they purchased the gas station. They say they were not aware of the restriction. People were sympathetic when they learned that some people are boycotting BP Atwood because of the environmental degradation the parent company caused in the Gulf. But the ALRC would not accept the argument that the applicant needs the license to stay in business and neither should the Plan Commission. One of the positive outcomes of the meeting was several neighbors who were not really aware there was new ownership promised to stop by more often to purchase convenience food or gas. Neighbors encouraged the owners' to follow up on their ideas to look at cross-promotions with a local bakery, install a drop box for Bongo Video, and urged them to communicate with the neighborhood that the station is under new ownership.

The owners notified SASYNA and were intending to attend the September meeting but the meeting was cancelled because it was a religious holiday. SASY has taken no position on this as a result.

Thanks for all you do-

Marsha