

Hi Mark--

I write to you in regards to the liquor license renewal of Wiggie's Bar (1901 Aberg Ave.) that is on tomorrow's ALRC agenda (Item #42, 22502). I ask the ALRC to recommend continuation of the security plan attached to this license. Although the full breadth of this plan has not been tested, it's presence as part of the license has had a dramatic change in my neighborhood.

I live at 1309 Huxley St., around the corner from Wiggie's. In the past five years Wiggie's has gone from being an occasional irritation to being a real and continued threat to the well-being in my neighborhood. From numerous acts of violence (including attempted shootings and other physical assaults), to pollution and littering on neighboring streets, to uncontrolled noise heard blocks away, to trespassing on the property of homeowners for the execution of drugs, sex and theft, the clientele patronizing this bar had made many homeowners, including myself, frightened and contemplating leaving a neighborhood that we love. To say that this business was having a large negative impact on our neighborhood is not an understatement. Compounding the issues was the fact that the owner, Mr. Wiganowsky, seemed contemptuous of the neighborhood, and unwilling to accept responsibility for the impact his business was having on his neighbors.

Since implementation of the security plan in November 2010, our neighborhood has had a dramatic change in atmosphere. Our neighborhood is peaceful. We no longer have trash in our yards, lack of sleep from loud music and conversation. We are not afraid to be in our own homes, wondering what is going on literally on our front steps. I think reports from the North District of MPD will speak for themselves regarding the dramatic decrease in calls for service to this area. In short, we have our neighborhood back.

Although Mr. Wiganowsky's voluntary decision to close his bar early has prevented full implementation of the security plan, I believe that without this plan we would still be dealing with the issues that were destroying our neighborhood. If and when he decides to remain open until bar time, I believe the measures outlined by the security plan are the only assurance the homeowners in our neighborhood have that this bar will not become a threat to our security and well-being. I would ask you and other members of the ALRC to please recommend that this plan be retained on the existing liquor license, as it has accomplished what no other measures have been able to.

Thanks for you attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Megan L. Maguire  
1309 Huxley St.