

**From:** [Amelie Davidson](#)  
**To:** [licensing](#)  
**Cc:** [Denny Marsh](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Agenda Item #69577, Letter of Concern from Neighbors  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:30:59 PM

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Dear Members of the Alcohol License Review Committee,

We are a concerned group of neighbors writing to ask the ALRC to decline a liquor license to Om's Liquor Store, Item 69577 on the agenda for Wednesday 2/16/22.

This store is proposing to come into the new building, The Emerson's commercial which sits adjacent to the Amstar gas station which has had several shootings in recent years along with activity that MPD has labeled a nuisance. Additionally, the space at 1101 S. Park Street is immediately next to an addiction treatment center called [5 Door Recovery](#). We neighbors feel that it is irresponsible to the vitality and safety of the neighborhood to place a liquor store in such close proximity to these existing businesses.

The neighborhood engaged in a process of negotiation with the developer of the multi-use building, The Emerson, to create a storefront that would have a large patio area to welcome a business that would foster community in the neighborhood. Businesses that foster community build the resilience of a community and naturally help to deter crime by strengthening relationships in the neighborhood. A key element of this type of business is to create space for gathering - a place where people stay to consume things on site or to do some type of activity together. A liquor store where people drive by to buy alcohol to take home, or to consume on the street nearby does not create safety or any sense of this protective community.

Additionally, with the large liquor selection at the Pick N Save across the street, the full selection of alcohol available less than one mile away at Regent Liquor and the access to beer at the numerous gas stations up and down Park Street, we neighbors feel that there is no need for another liquor store at this location.

The owner of the proposed business, Meena Kaushal, met with the neighborhood association last Thursday, 2/10/22. She presented her plans to over forty community members over zoom without ever turning on her camera to introduce herself properly to the community she plans to enter. She was met by concern from numerous community members about the possibility of the store contributing to loitering and other less favorable behaviors. The owner became defensive when approached about some of these concerns and had to be asked repeatedly during this community meeting to address these issues.

This space would optimally be used as a place that increases connection, uses the patio space as a community space and allows Bay Creek residents, those who work

in the surrounding medical offices and those who pass by on Park St. to spend their money locally in a way that increases vibrancy in the neighborhood.

The ALRC has the opportunity to use its power to discern where and how liquor should be sold in Madison. We understand that this is a matrix of decision-making and we respectfully ask you to consider choosing to help develop this area of S. Park Street in a manner that is thoughtful and considerate to the surrounding community.

We sincerely appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Amelie Davidson + Denny Marsh, 801 Emerson  
Stanley Jackson, 810 Emerson St.  
Bonnie Schmidt, 813 Emerson St.  
Sonja Darlingon, 805 Emerson St.  
Molly Fish, 820 Emerson St.  
Yaniv Lazimy, 830 Emerson St.  
John + Kristin Westfall, 721 Emerson St.  
Anna Stevens, 801 W. Lakeside St.  
Natalie Eisner & Victor Brar, 209 Potter St  
Maribeth Wendorff, 722 Emerson St.  
Maria Cavicchio, 718 Emerson St. Apt 1  
Teresa + Robert Nicolas, 1109 Lowell St.  
Jeffery Swiggum, 833 W. Lakeside St.  
Christina Rose, 838 W. Lakeside St.  
Morel Stackhouse, 705 W. Lakeside St.