

Witzel-Behl, Maribeth

From: Patty Zahler [pazap101@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 1:22 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Puerto Escondido Alcohol License

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To: Maribeth Witzel-Behl, Clerk of Court

From: Patty Zahler - Arbor Hills Garden Club President &
Board Member - Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association

Per the Council's request at the hearing on Wed. Sept. 29, please find below a list of Arbor Hills residents who are NOT OPPOSED to the Puerto Escondido Alcohol License

On August 16, 2010, Sheri Carter, acting as president of the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association (AHNA), sent an email to all of the Block Captains (27) in the neighborhood and also the AHNA Board (4) stating that she would be attending the ALRC to oppose the liquor license for Puerto Escondido. The email also stated that we should make every effort to come to the Public Meeting on Wednesday, August 18, 2010, to oppose the liquor license because she had "heard from some of you that you are opposed to the city granting this license, and so is the AHNA board. In addition, we will be joined by Brad Hutter, President Mortensen Investment Group (MIG)."

I sent an email back to everyone stating that I was on the Board, and that I did NOT oppose the liquor license, and that I had never been asked anything about the issue as a Board member. I also asked in the email I sent out that if anyone else was in support of the liquor license for the restaurant to please show up to the ALRC meeting.

This is the response I received via email and phone calls and in person from the Block Captains & Board Members, and neighbors:

Those in favor of a liquor license, including myself (25)

Carol Harrison
Jonathan Harrison
Kate Sweeney
Lisa Weinlader
Terry Mason
Al Talarzyk
Wendy Towne
Betsy Wilcox
Jerry Wilcox
Bob Alt
Bill Morehead
Janine Morehead
Paul Cook
Phyllis Fuller
Bridgit Christensen
Patty Zahler
Cate Bolt
Paul Tatarsky
Amy Tatarsky
Greg Bolt

Jon Ewald
Amy Thorbahn
Freddy Thorbahn
Mary Helen Becker
Bronsen LaFollette

Those who are **in favor but waiting to know more:** (3)

Dennis Barber
Lee Jennings
David Krelling

Those opposed (3):

Sheri Carter – AHNA President
Mortensen Investment Group
Alderman Tim Bruer

Those in favor welcome Puerto Escondido, and desire a margarita or beer with their dinner. Many are concerned that the restaurant will not be successful without alcohol sales revenues. I speak on everyone's behalf when I say we wish them much success

Some concerns we have:

- No nightclub music hall or late night bar activity
- Parking
- Signage

The liquor license is for 90% food and 10% alcohol, so we are not concerned regarding bar activity. Other Mexican restaurants that have a bar & restaurant that does not pose a problem to the neighborhood: Casa Lara on Fish Hatchery, Texas Tubbs on Monroe, Texas Tubs on University, Laredos on Whitney Way & Fitch Hatchery, and La Hacienda on South Park, and Mercado on South Park

Cptn Joe Balles of the South District is not opposed to the liquor license, as stated by his police officer representative at the last ALRC meeting, who also stated that, to date the restaurant has posed no problems for police. There is a full-time police officer located in an office across the street from the restaurant on Todd Dr.

Other places on the same corner that sells alcohol: the Open Pantry Convenience Store and Bonfyre Grill - which does have a large bar area. We are not understanding how these two locations can serve or sell alcohol but Puerto Escondido cannot.

A sign is in the process of being designed for the restaurant, according to owner Luis Gonzalez

Upon investigation, we have determined that there is extensive parking in the neighborhood for the restaurant within easy walking distance.

Front of the Restaurant: 7 spaces
Behind the restaurant: 4 spaces
Next door: Verlo 20-plus spaces
Private parking next door on Todd- 50 spaces seldom used; shared parking could be negotiated with Bonfyre Grill
McDivitt Dr. - Street behind restaurant – 20 spaces
Public parking across street off Todd & McDivitt-- 30 spaces
Public parking garage across street off Todd – 100

TOTAL: 181 public parking spaces within easy walking distance
50 private parking spaces that could possibly be negotiated

Alderman Tim Bruer received emails and phone calls by Arbor Hills residents in support of the liquor license, but he has been unresponsive. Alderman Bruer has never visited the restaurant nor spoken to the owners