

I'll get right to the point, because apparently that's where we are, with friendly requests made to the owner of That BBQ to do something to reduce the various pollution so they have brought into our neighborhood being totally ignored, and rather rudely at times. We welcomed this business, perceiving no problems. But it has become a problem and they have shown no inclination whatsoever to even listen respectfully to the comments of the families who live on Paterson Street.

Whether or not you like BBQ, to live immersed in the thick, heavy smell of it is enough to wean you off it forever. This smell rolls out the doors and windows and every vent of the old building, and for me, a vegetarian, it rather reminds me of the smell of the old stockyards up in St Paul where I went to college. It is cloying and sticks to one. The whole block smells of it, and it grows more intense with the close conditions of our humid summers. I don't barbecue, but there must be some way of mitigating this overwhelming smell.

That is one way they are polluting our neighborhood air; the other is easier to address, a mechanical issue. Obviously, a barbecue joint needs fans; otherwise how could they blow their smoke and smells over us all? But they don't need to be so noisy. There are fans and then there are fans. Some are quieter. Some don't run all night. We live with the sound of these fans, and like the smells, the awareness grows steeper in the summer when our windows are open at night to allow in the cooler evening air. They go on constantly at That BBQ! There are children on the street, who need to sleep. There are fragile elderly in the neighborhood. Nothing has been done to impress upon the owner of That BBQ that being part of a neighborhood means working together. This alcohol licensing seems our only bid to make it clear that if they have no regard for our needs as families seeking a clean, healthy and pleasant lifestyle in one of Madison's nicest neighborhoods, well, then we feel no obligation to support the owner's wishes to make more profit in our neighborhood. Being a good neighbor is a social contract. The owner of That BBQ has so far failed to sign on.

Sincerely,
Susan Hering