

To the Madison City Council:

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed alcohol/liquor license, and subsequent placement of a tavern, at 1843 Monroe Street. My children are active participants in The Young Shakespeare Players (YSP) — a not-for-profit children's-and-young-people's theater and education organization located at 1806 West Lawn Avenue. YSP's home is very close to the proposed tavern. Its property abuts the three-way corner of Monroe, Spooner, and West Lawn. Throughout the year, hundreds of young people, aged 7 to 18, do their work at this building during the day and evening hours. They typically make extensive use of the Monroe Street neighborhood before and after sessions, and during their breaks. I do not believe the inclusion of another tavern right here would enhance their social and educational experiences.

Please note that there are already three establishments that serve wine or beer on just one side of this one short block -- Pasqual's restaurant, Barrique's Wine Cave, and Brutta Pizza. The opposite side of the street is dominated by a supermarket that sells both beer and wine (Trader Joe's). Do we really need more alcohol served on this block? And, with one of Madison's unique young people's institutions so close by?

I am very concerned about what message this sends to my kids and their YSP friends. I am also concerned about their safety if a tavern is allowed so close to where they enjoy their independence and activities. I do not see how this will enhance the already vibrant Monroe Street neighborhood. I feel it will only detract from the family friendliness of the area and increase the prevalence of alcohol abuse that already plagues the student population in the City of Madison.

I encourage you to please reject the alcohol license for this location.

Thank you,

Kristin S. Johnson