

Dear ALRC members,

I have lived at 416 S Paterson St for 35 years. The front steps of my home are 120 feet diagonally across the street from the rear southwest corner of the building at 901 Williamson St.

Since the opening of That BBQ Joint, my wife and I have had to listen to the noise of their food preparation operation equipment. The noise is most disturbingly noticeable during the night. Even in the winter with the windows closed, we hear it throughout the night. Since the opening of the restaurant, we have had to resort to playing “thunderstorms and rain” ambient sound every night when we go to sleep to mask the racket of the food processing equipment.

The presence of smoked meat smell in our home is very dependent on wind direction. At times the inside of our house is pervaded with the smell and it can last for days.

I was present at the MNA Planning and Development committee meeting where That BBQ Joint owners first came seeking neighborhood approval. They deliberately withheld any mention that their “restaurant” was also a 24-hour-a-day food processing facility. This information would have completely altered the discussion within the MNA about the appropriateness of their business to this neighborhood and any support that could be given to them.

We attended a meeting organized by the city to bring together the affected neighbors, the alder, the business owners and the landlord on Dec. 8, 2015. The landlord was not present for most of the meeting. The affected neighbors and the alderperson were all dismayed at the attitude of the business owners as completely dismissive of the impact of their operations on our homes.

Williamson St has always been a mix of residential and commercial properties. But, we do not feel a round-the-clock processing facility is appropriate at this location. If an alcohol license is a component of their business plan, then we feel that the entirety of their impact on their immediate neighbors be a condition of approval.

Yours,  
Steve Ohlson & Maryline Beurg