

# CAPITOL

NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.  
MADISON, WISCONSIN

January 31, 2009  
Members of Alcohol License Review Committee  
c/o Maribeth Witzel-Behl  
City Clerk's Office  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 103  
Madison, Wisconsin

Subject: Samba Restaurant

Dear ALRC Members:

Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc. (CNI) has reviewed the license alteration request for Samba Brazilian Steak House at 240 W. Gilman Street. We and a representative of the church next door spoke with the applicant about the request, exploring the implications of the changes for the applicant and the neighbors, including the church.

The primary concern of CNI with respect to alcohol license approvals downtown is alcohol related crime and violence. That is more likely to arise in situations of over consumption along with the presence of large capacity venues and multiple venues in close proximity. The problems tend to be concentrated late at night given the number of venues that tend to morph from restaurants into bars.

The request, as outlined by the applicant would result in Samba being open 10:00 am to 1:00 am Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays, 10:00 am to 1:30 am Wednesdays through Saturdays. The applicant stated that the restaurant would stop allow people to come in and would stop serving alcohol 1 hour before closing time so as to ensure that all patrons would have sufficient time for their dining experience before closing time. The hours of operation for the outdoor patio area will not be changed. By all accounts, the restaurant has operated without incident and been a good neighbor to the church and the neighborhood. They have been earning 75% of their income from food and expect that to continue. Further, the applicant has demonstrated a willingness to work with the neighborhood and commits to continuing this relationship. Aside from the change in hours of operation, there are no other changes being requested. We recommend implementing the above understandings as conditions on the altered license.

It is our perception that this establishment improves the quality of life downtown sufficiently to warrant our supporting the granting of an alcohol license to this applicant.

However, CNI wants to emphasize our continuing concern about the density of alcohol licenses and capacity of establishments in the downtown that focus on alcohol sales rather than restaurant sales. We look to the ALRC and Council to address this issue given the impact that over consumption has on the safety and quality of life in the downtown.

Sincerely,

Robert Holloway  
President