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To: [licensing](#)
Subject: ALRC item #87784 - please share with ALRC members
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We are writing to express our opposition to Big Top Events' proposal to construct a 6'6" fence at Breese to enclose the area outside gate 1, the sidewalk, and a parking/traffic lane on North Paterson St. on "concert/event days" (which is every weekend from now until November). At the very least, questions about the reason for the request, hours of fencing, dates, impact on the neighborhood and traffic, and a visible rendition of the fence, should be answered and considered.

This may be a good move for Big Top's bottom line in terms of beer sales, but it's a bad move for residents and visitors to the neighborhood.

For walking and biking, Paterson Street is the key safe route across East Washington, given the long traffic light and wide, visible crosswalk. It is a distinctive route used by hundreds, or in the summer, thousands, of people per day. Now, with a BRT center station at that spot, it is even more hectic and busy. Big Top is proposing that people coming from the bus stop, or walking or biking through the intersection on their way across the isthmus, should cross in the road or give up this safest crosswalk to go elsewhere. This block of Paterson also has a Festival Foods' driveway entry, and it crosses the popular Mifflin bike boulevard. Adding a visual and logistical impediment to this busy streetscape just doesn't make safety or aesthetic sense overall.

In addition, the bike racks and BCycle docks at Breese Stevens heavily used to attend events and businesses all along this area would be enclosed. There are no alternatives anywhere close by.

Allowing this fence at this location contradicts the neighborhood's and city's commitment to quality of life here and throughout our community: to respect historic landmarks, promote green transportation, and ensure public safety. It's just one spot in the city but it has great meaning and use.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this concern.

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