

From: judith strand
To: [Verbick, Jim](#)
Subject: I/O Arcade Bar proposal
Date: Monday, April 23, 2018 11:30:33 AM

Members of the ALRC,

As you consider the proposed I/O Arcade Bar at 720 Williamson St., I ask you to give special attention to the issue of car parking. It is critical that you note the bar's location is adjacent to a dense residential area. That is Jenifer St. and Spaight St. are homes (single and multi-family) on small lots with little or no off-street parking. This historic area is dependent on street parking, and as such we residents do make choices to limit our number/use of cars ourselves. Even so, the 700 block of Jenifer Street is already challenged given its proximity to Machinery Row, Willy St businesses, and downtown with short term visitors. A bar with a capacity for 155 essentially right across the street is the making of a nightmare for us.

Mitchell Turino recently stated that McGrath is promising him no parking spots (as still signing other tenants). Mr Turino points out there will be a parking garage blocks away next year. Imagine folks walking at night in winter and paying for hourly parking: do you think that the garage will spare us from patron parking? Is it more likely to be only an alternative when a spot can't be found after driving around our streets? In addition, parking by patrons of late night establishments who return to their cars at midnight/2 am creates a distinct problem. Our homes are within feet of the street and with open windows all summer. Serving a bar of this scale will negatively affect our life in every way.

The I/O Arcade Bar itself is a popular concept. Key questions for you are if this location is appropriate, sufficiently planned, and effects the residential neighborhood. If it is to be approved, I request that ALRC forwards its support of a provision to provide a protection to the 700 block of Jenifer St. with a new parking permit policy. A residential parking permit of 24/7 would protect us from such late night problems. Our current 2 hour parking doesn't apply after 4 pm or in weekends and receives little enforcement. A 24/7 permit for residents is needed, whereby residents receive permits for visitors/workers. It can be easily enforced. One can look to Minneapolis and elsewhere to see examples of how this protects residential neighborhoods adjacent to active business streets.

Finally, as a 30 year long resident of the near Eastside, I see the changes and influx of new entrepreneurship here. Much is positive. I chose to live here to raise a family and see my children grow up in the diversity of our east side schools. Our schools are of value as much as new bars. Taking steps to support and encourage families to stay - and choose - the near east side should be a priority of all city officials and bodies. That's where vision, long term as well as immediate, is needed. Beyond my concern for my street, please see our neighborhood in all of its richness and challenges as you consider this and other applications, and make decisions accordingly.

I appreciate your attention to this lengthy statement.

Many thanks, Judith Strand