

licensing

From: Sarah Cannon <sarahcannon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 9:42 AM
To: licensing
Cc: Hawthorne Neighborhood; Latimer Burris, Amani
Subject: Opposition to Agenda Item #51

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Good morning,

I am writing in strong opposition to the alcohol licensing for MPL Corporation Investment, doing business as Crown Liquor at 3510 East Washington Avenue. There are several issues which support this opposition.

High alcohol density area

Communities with a high concentration of alcohol outlets experience a greater number of alcohol-related problems. Problematic operations contribute disproportionately to the incidence of drug dealing, public drunkenness, drunk driving, underage drinking, assaults, and other conditions that breed neighborhood decay.

In my hastily prepared search, there currently are approximately 54 establishments that serve alcohol near the Hawthorne neighborhood. This includes 20 liquor stores within 3 miles, 15 bars/ restaurants within 1.5 mile, and 19 gas stations/ convenience stores within 2.1 miles of Brigham Park, located on the corner of Rosedale and Brigham Avenue. This community does not need more alcohol poured into our community.

I do not know what criteria this licensing board uses to make a final decision on licensing new establishments, but I would like to know if an alcohol density test has been completed for the Hawthorne area. If one has not been completed I would like to request that any decisions regarding this license be delayed until a study can be completed.

Structural Racism

The city of Madison is contributing to structural racism by approving more and more alcohol licenses in lower to middle economic communities or communities with diverse backgrounds. The city of Madison needs to do better for all of it's citizens, but there is an appearance of a current free-for all alcohol license policies that are in place which disproportionately affects those with poor to mid socioeconomic status and to people of color.

I would like to know what input that the Madison Police Department can provide on the number of alcohol-related calls have been made to the Hawthorne neighborhood, and how the number of calls to the area have affected people of color in this neighborhood.

Alcohol Served to Minors

I have a great fear that the owner of this building may sell alcohol to minors. Rajan Talwar has a No-Contest/ Guilty record for serving alcohol to minors. Per Columbia County Case Number 2016CM000370, State of Wisconsin vs. Rajan Talwar, on 4/26/2024 Rajan Talwar was charged with statute 125.07(1), selling alcohol to minors (2nd offense). A no-contest/ guilty plea was entered on 12/19/2017. As a part of his plea deal, count 946.49(1)(a), bail-jumping and count 125.07(1)(a)2 licensee sell alcohol to underage (2nd) were dismissed.

Additional information about the investigation into these allegations appears on news800.com : https://www.news8000.com/news/crime/sun-prairie-man-accused-of-purposely-selling-alcohol-to-kids/article_129f9a9c-4158-5c99-834c-c884f33f1b55.html. The investigation included two days' worth of increased criminal interdiction patrols in April and undercover purchases of alcohol from the gas station. The investigation resulted in 27 traffic violation warnings, 30 traffic citations, nine underage alcohol possession citations, and 15 criminal arrests ranging from drug and paraphernalia possession to OWI and drugged driving. Per deputies, while out on bond for those cases, Talwar again sold alcohol to a 19 year old. He was arrested again for second-offense selling alcoholic beverages to underage persons and misdemeanor bail jumping.

Mr. Talwar has shown a blatant disregard for the laws in Wisconsin. I would sincerely hope that he does not repeat these offenses, but only time will tell.

For all of the reasons stated above, I strongly oppose honoring Mr. Talwar and his brother Amit Kumar with a license permitting the operation of an alcohol-related business at 3510 E Washington Avenue.

Sincerely,

Sarah R. Cannon
698-256-9779

Sent from my iPhone