



Office of the Common Council

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To: Members of the Alcohol License Review Committee

I am writing to express my unconditional support to grant liquor licenses to Walgreens, per their applications, for their two stores in my district (Mineral Point Road and Old Sauk Road). I have discussed this issue with Walgreens officials, the Madison Police Department and representatives of the neighborhood associations in the area. I have concluded that these applications are consistent with City policy and would not pose a problem with the health, safety or welfare of our community or its residents.

I have reviewed and endorsed license applications for similar venues in my district (Target and Shopko) and in other parts of the City (Wal-Mart). I have received no complaints regarding selling alcohol in their facilities. Furthermore, the Madison Police Department has received no complaints either. Captain Jay Lengfeld (MPD West) has expressed to me that he has no concerns with granting a liquor license at either location.

I have received less than ten e-mails from individuals who oppose granting these licenses. None of those who are opposed offered specific information (such as cited problems at any of the facilities) regarding their opposition. Some expressed a concern that this could lead to a 'proliferation of alcohol'. I do not agree.

I have contacted the leadership of the neighborhood associations in the area and alerted them to this issue. I offered to meet with them and answer questions. None of them indicated that there was organized neighborhood opposition to the liquor license applications. They all indicated their support for Walgreens. I suggested that the neighborhood association leadership inform their members to see if there were issues that needed to be address. I have received no feedback from any neighborhood representative.

Walgreens is a solid and reputable business member of our community. They have a good reputation with neighborhood residents and have provided important services to them over a long period of time. Providing beer and wine would be an extension of these services, and would be consistent with City policy. The product that they would provide would be incidental to the other services and goods that they sell. The cost and quantity of these goods would not encourage individuals to make Walgreens a destination to purchase large quantities of alcohol.

I hope you agree with me that Walgreen's proposal is reasonable and consistent with City policy. I urge you to approve their applications.

Respectfully yours,

Paul Skidmore

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