

Dear Ald. Eskrich,

I am writing to ask that you stand up for the health of our children and other vulnerable members of our community by opposing all city approvals for the Double S BBQ. As the owners told us at the neighborhood meeting, they plan to run their outdoor wood smoker for 12 hours at a time, several days a week, literally in our neighbor's backyard and across the street from our home.

Wood smoke, which studies show contains several toxic and carcinogenic pollutants, will be filling our yards and homes on a constant basis. The particles from wood smoke are so fine that they are able to enter even the most tightly controlled, energy efficient, homes (please see attached EPA information). In our historic neighborhood, it's rare to find a home that isn't drafty.

The fine nature of the particles also means that just because you don't see it (like in the video the owners show to try and alleviate our concerns), doesn't mean it's not there.

The babies and children in our neighborhood are at most risk because their lungs are still developing; supporting this establishment means supporting exposing my little children to the health risks associated with long-term exposure to wood smoke. These risks include: cancer, harmful developmental and reproductive effects such as infant mortality and low birth weight, acute bronchitis, asthma, and increased susceptibility to respiratory infections such as pneumonia (please see attached EPA information). Even short-term exposures can be very dangerous to those in our neighborhood that have heart disease, and recent studies have also shown that wood smoke particulates increase the rates of heart attacks and strokes too (please see attached EPA and EHFI information).

On top of this most pressing health concern (the wood burning outdoor smoker), there are other health and safety issues associated with allowing yet another alcohol serving establishment in the 1800 block of Monroe Street. Over the last several years, the ALRC has approved over 500 new alcohol seats in the small and dense area of 1800-1900 Monroe Street. These restaurants bring in ventilation fans that are loud and keep people from getting a good night of sleep, smells from fryers that permeate the air as we garden or play with our kids outside, and safety and nuisance problems associated with drunk patrons returning to their cars parked in front of our homes. As these problems have escalated, we have had to deal with two different alders (you are our third) in the span of less than three years, and no real progress has been made.

The BBQ restaurant is a real and serious health risk to those of us living in the immediate area.

We aren't many, and the children can't fight this for themselves. We really need your leadership and support, please consider standing strong with us.

Sincerely,
Sally Lehner