

I'm writing to ask for skeptical consideration of the effects of another business serving alcohol on Monroe Street. It isn't needed and it isn't neutral.

I understand that neighbors often think and feel "no" about changes, asserting that property values will go down and traffic will increase with a proposed change.

This is not the same impulse. My concerns come for myself and for my two teen grandchildren. I'm their guardian and they live with me. I encourage them to walk and bike to Monroe Street and other neighborhood destinations as they have grown up and away from Randall School and are developing independence, particularly less-car-centered independence. We--individually and together--use the library, choose to do as much shopping as possible at Monroe Street merchants and Milio's and the Regent Coop--and, yes, I do buy beverages at the little liquor store next to the Coop--and walk the dog in the area. My nearly-15-year-old participated both in a summer's study and performance of *The Tempest* and in a fall reading of *A Tale of Two Cities*, both productions including time with friends in the area of Young Shakespeare Players. The area is lively and vigorous, and shops need to make enough money to stay open, but a bar is not the only business that could support itself at that location, and there is no lack of businesses already alcohol-ready.

It wasn't alcohol licensing that took Burnie's Rock Shop and Dotty Dumpling's Dowry from Monroe Street; in my view it was an unfortunate concern from the neighborhood that if Randall Bank established a drive-through in the alley behind its then-location there would be bad consequences for the neighborhood. Randall Bank went through several sets of plans and eventually evicted its across-the-street tenants, Burnie's and Dotty Dumpling's, demolished the little old stone service station and moved a house to create the substantial drive-through facility that is now Associated Bank. So, neighbors aren't always right. (I think we must grant that drive through isn't so important any more.)

Again, this isn't the same objection to change. This is an objection to facilitating more alcohol, when moderation, when possible, is a better choice and diversity is always a better choice. Please recognize the effect that a more-intense presence of drinking would have on the area. It's a nice neighborhood and a nice shopping area and more alcohol is pretty famous for creating more unpleasantness.

Thanks for your consideration.

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