



April 14, 2015

To: Members of the Alcohol License Review Committee (re: File 37403)

The Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association has, over the past month, worked closely with neighbors and the owners of the Freiburg Gastropub, and the DMNA supports issuing an alcohol license to the Freiburg Gastropub.

Prior to the March 18, 2015 ALRC meeting, many neighbors had come out strongly against this project. There were unresolved issues concerning parking, traffic, noise, outdoor seating, and about the general capacity of this commercial node to absorb the impact of yet another restaurant.

Since then, the Freiburg owners have acknowledged neighborhood concerns and have genuinely pursued finding workable solutions for their restaurant. The owners have engaged the neighbors and the DMNA in open and honest problem-solving, listening openly to concerns and actively pursuing solutions. They pronounced their desire to be good neighbors and become a positive addition to our neighborhood, a high-quality dining establishment that we enjoy and are proud to have in our neighborhood.

The process following the March 18th meeting has been exemplary of effective communication that has benefited all involved. The owners have met with neighbors on two other occasions, have shared numerous email communications with neighbors, and have worked to secure a dedicated parking lot to offset some parking demands on the neighborhood. Furthermore, the owners enthusiastically agreed to host a follow-up meeting with the neighbors following the restaurant opening to review concerns and re-evaluate solutions.

Beyond this project, DMNA's continuing concern is that this application is being addressed in isolation, working on individual business proposals but not toward a comprehensive neighborhood alcohol policy. What will be the plan for parking and alcohol for the next restaurant at this commercial node? The DMNA has been working in conjunction with our Alder and adjoining neighborhood associations to formulate an alcohol license policy and evaluate alcohol density in our neighborhood. The Freiburg owners have been fully supportive of this pursuit and have offered to work on this in conjunction with DMNA. We ask that the City engage with us in a discussion about these ongoing issues and assist us in developing a sustainable, workable plan for our neighborhood that will address alcohol license density, parking, traffic, proximity to single family homes and apartments and other concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association Executive Committee
Al Nettleton, President
Charlie Crisanti, Vice President
Julia Billingham, Treasurer
Marcia Diamond, Secretary