



Office of the Common Council

Ald. Sara Eskrich, District 13

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To: Members of the ALRC
From: Sara Eskrich, District 13 Alder
RE: Knickerbocker Restaurant LLC
Date: June 11, 2016

I apologize in advance; I will not be able to attend your meeting on Wednesday, June 15th, as I have a conflicting meeting. Do not hesitate to reach out to me individually if you have any questions.

80. 42992 Public Hearing - New License Knickerbocker Restaurant LLC • dba Verdant & Miko Poke 2701 Monroe St • Agent: Caitlin Suemnicht • Estimated Capacity: 155 Class B Combination Liquor & Beer • 25% alcohol, 75% food Aldermanic District 13 (Alder Eskrich) • Police Sector 302

We had a very productive neighborhood meeting on Monday, June 6th with Food Fight regarding the former Bluphies and their request for alcohol licenses and outdoor seating. Neighbors shared concerns regarding noise and parking, but also shared support for the new restaurants and outdoor seating at this location. Some particular elements of the proposal eased resident concerns, including:

- The outdoor space hours will close at 9pm Sun – Thurs and 10pm Friday and Saturday.
- The opening “window” to the indoor space is small, such that noise will not be likely to travel outside of the restaurant.
- The restaurant is installing more internal noise dampening foam and internal noise controls.
- The outdoor space is nearly completely bounded by a five foot brick wall. As people sit at the tables, the intention is that the noise will be mitigated by the walls.
- There will not be amplified music in the outdoor space.
- The proposal takes away three current parking spaces. Monty from Food Fight noted that Bluphies has stored two catering vans in the parking lot and those will be gone with the new restaurants. So, it is in some ways only losing one spot.

After the meeting, I shared with neighbors that there are some conditions that I will work to have included in the licensing of this space. I asked the Plan Commission to consider:

- The outdoor hours will not just stop seating and serving at 9pm and 10pm, but the outdoor space will be closed after 9pm and 10pm respectively (as per staff condition 1).
- The outdoor space will have occupancy set by the number of seats. This will ensure that the area does not become crowded, standing-room outdoor space, but an extension of the restaurant seating area.
- The outdoor space will include a landscaping plan to be approved by the city to further screen the outdoor space (as per staff condition 3).

- The applicant will provide an employee traffic management plan (noting that employee parking can be part of the neighborhood parking challenges).

I am asking, you, the ALRC, to consider recommending approval if:

- The outdoor space will not be permitted an entertainment license (note: this has not been requested at this time, so no action is required).
- The outdoor hours will not just stop seating and serving at 9pm and 10pm, but the outdoor space will be closed after 9pm and 10pm respectively.

I also noted to residents that if there are concerns over noise and the outdoor seating, we can always readdress the hours of operation or operation in general in the future, through the conditional use or ALRC-process.