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137 S. Brittingham Place
Madison, WI 53715

August 3, 2010

The Honorable Dave Cieslewicz, Mayor
Members of the Common Council
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Walgreens Liquor License Applications

Dear Mayor Cieslewicz and Council Members:

The authority to grant or deny a liquor license is given to municipalities by state statute under sec. 125.10(1). Under sec. 125.12(3m), a municipality may decide not to issue a license provided it states the reasons for the decision. The reasons to deny the three new liquor license applications Walgreens are as follows:

1. Wisconsin already leads the nation in per capita alcohol outlets. Any additional licenses will increase alcohol outlet density, which will lead to increased levels of crime and violence.
https://www.marininstitute.org/site/images/stories/pdfs/outlet_density.pdf
2. If you grant these three Walgreens applications, there will be "no sensible or just stopping point." *Nichols v. Progressive Insurance*, 2008 WI 20, 308 Wis. 2d 17, 746 N.W.2d 220. In *Nichols*, the Wisconsin Supreme Court denied a claim for common law negligence on public policy grounds. Likewise, the Common Council should deny these liquor licenses on the public policy grounds of safety and welfare.
3. For the Common Council to grant these applications, you will be paving the way for the remaining Walgreens stores in Madison to obtain liquor licenses. Unlike Target and Walmart, there is a Walgreens on practically every corner. You will be setting a dangerous precedent for neighborhood retail outlets.

Sincerely yours,

