

Sarah Teniente
512 Davidson St.
Madison, WI 53716
November 12, 2009

DISTRICT 15
Council Member, Larry Palm

2502 Dahle St
Madison, WI 53704
Phone: 608-692-8416
district15@cityofmadison.com

RE: Liquor License Application for JoBecks Bar

Dear Mr. Palm:

I am writing to inquire whether Ring Rodie LLC and/or owners of JoBecks Bar will hold an informational meeting for their new business at 521 Cottage Grove Road for people in the neighborhood and to ask you to advocate for our concerns.

I'm not sure if you remember but I contacted you about the past establishment, Winnie's Bar, about noise and dumpster issues about 2 ½ years ago. After my initial contact with you, you contacted me to inform me that after an informal survey of the neighborhood no action would be taken. You told me that no one else in the neighborhood had a problem with Winnie's. After which, I contacted and attended a meeting with the Neighborhood Association. If you recall, Tim Saterfield was gracious enough to go over to the establishment and discuss our concerns with the owner. The dumpsters were moved but they refused to put up a privacy fence.

Let me explain that our concerns were over the smokers who would gather behind the bar, which is adjacent to our backyard. Winnie's clientele began appearing at 11:00 am to noon and stayed, weather permitting until 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. While they were in the back relaxing they were very loud and observing our movement in our backyard. Often they would comment on what we were doing, though non-confrontational still disturbing to know they were watching us. At night and in the summer we could hear people arguing and cursing loudly. In the summer, if we had our windows open, you could hear their conversations clearly while in the kitchen, master bedroom and bath. Sometimes, even in our living room. We also experienced headlights in our bedroom.

After Tim Saterfield's visit to Winnie's we were unexpectedly visited by the owner who was very confrontational. She came into my home to inform me that they had no intention of paying for a privacy fence and we knew there was a bar in the back when we bought the house. She appeared to be intoxicated. After that, we felt that we had done all that we could do.

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We were often afraid to let our children play in the backyard for fearing of hearing every curse word in the English language. We also disliked the way Winnie's clientele treated each other and argued--especially after the murder that took place in the park in the neighborhood. We wondered if the people involved were Winnie's customers.

This summer we spent around \$600 buying and planting evergreens to line our property line in hopes that in the next 5 years we could get some relief from Winnie's. This July, after a week-long vacation, we returned to find that Winnie's appeared to be out of business. We were very happy.

Unfortunately, after receiving the blue postcard announcing a liquor license review for JoBecks Bar—we dread that we will have to deal with the same behavior again.

We urge you to help us avoid a repeat of what we had to deal with before with Winnie's by helping us to negotiate a solution with the new owners of the building. We propose that either a 12' privacy fence be erected along the property line, similar to the one around the VFW on Cottage Grove or that at least a fence goes up around their smoking area. We would like not only visual privacy but a sound barrier if possible.

Our children are now 7 and almost 3. Their grandparents bought them a jungle gym that was installed in the backyard. They spend a lot of time back there and are very happy. I was also looking forward to creating a vegetable garden in the backyard. It breaks my heart to think that we will again have to deal with hearing the raunchy behavior and inappropriate conversations from before. Please help us!

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Sarah Teniente

Cc: Neighborhood Association, Lake Edge Tim Saterfield (N.A. Contact), Sue Ela (newsletter)