

To: Eskrich, Sara
Subject: Re: BBQ restaurant applicant

Hi Sara,

Welcome to the neighborhood as our Alderperson.
I appreciate the update and information you provide on the Vilas neighborhood list serve.

It seems most concerns discussed at the meeting Tues. were about use of the BBQ smoker. Was there any discussion about more alcohol licensing? Alcohol use in and around our neighborhood is getting to be more and more of a concern for me and my family. While this likely is a responsible place for individuals to drink alcohol - it is just expanding the already existing establishments where alcohol is served. I am okay with drinking as long as it is contained and kept private. However, there is already so much alcohol drinking in such highly visible places in our neighborhood, with adults and students freely thinking that our neighborhood is accustomed to alcohol use and it is acceptable simply because we are near the stadium. There needs to be a halt to what seems to me an increase of establishments serving alcohol on Regent St and now Monroe St.

Our neighborhood sees so much drinking not just throughout our neighborhood on football game Saturdays, but other weekends during daytime and evenings. This behavior also spreads into Vilas Park. Have you walked or driven around Vilas on a warmer Friday, Saturday, or Sunday afternoon or evening lately? There are many student parties or gatherings on front lawns or porches, not inside or their backyards. I have two teen children (ages 14 and 17) that I now discuss frequently the disadvantages of drinking alcohol and how to drink responsibly if you do decide to drink alcohol. My children are subjected to observing drinking and the resulting behaviors on a regular basis.

We can't walk to the Monroe St. library without passing several alcohol gatherings on the way. When my family goes to Vilas Park to play soccer on weekends, we are guaranteed to see Keg parties. Just driving out of our neighborhood we see many alcohol gatherings on front lawns. Is this acceptable for young children and youth to see on a weekly and yearly basis just because it is nice outside, and we are live near UW stadium and campus? There has to be an end point to all this.... where does we begin?

While this neighborhood front lawn alcohol drinking, or alcohol at tailgate gatherings may not seem directly related to the BBQ joint obtaining a liquor license - in my opinion it is. It is like saying our neighborhood lives near the stadium and therefore we approve of drinking alcohol and walking around drunk. Not only do regulations need to be considered for students and adults drinking alcohol in residential areas, but additional restrictions need to be applied to establishments. Could we please apply the brakes?

Regards,
Eileen Thompson
Resident Vilas neighborhood since 1993