



Office of the Common Council

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To: Members of the Alcohol License Review Committee
From: Sara Eskrich, District 13 Alder
RE: Double S BBQ
Date: May 20, 2015

Thank you for your attention to the request for a beer and wine license at 1835 Monroe Street. As you will see in the many public comments before you this evening, this application has garnered much attention from the surrounding neighbors, including both opposition and support of the applied for alcohol licenses. We held a public neighborhood meeting, with mailed postcard and electronic invitations to residents on May 12th to discuss this application and I have been in contact with neighbors via email and listserv conversation over the past month.

There is an ongoing challenge around the density of liquor licenses and restaurants on Monroe Street that impact the surrounding residential neighborhoods. These are issues – including traffic, parking, noise, and more – that we are working together to resolve to the best of our ability, including through a “good neighbor agreement” that Double S BBQ has agreed to work with the neighborhood association on and sign. Though I have heard from many neighbors supporting and opposing the alcohol license for Double S BBQ, the majority have been supportive of this small restaurant as an addition to the street regarding their internal restaurant operations and beer/wine license. Monroe Street is an asset to the city, but proves a challenging and delicate balance between residential and viable commercial space that improves the character of the urban neighborhood.

The applicant started working on this license with the previous alder. There are issues that remain unresolved with regard to the business plan for this applicant, most notably their intention to smoke meat in an outdoor cooking operation behind the leased space on Monroe Street, adjoining a residential neighborhood. This is an issue for the Plan Commission to review through a conditional use process. However, the proposal affects areas in the purview of the ALRC, namely the goal, “enhance public safety & quality of life.”

I recommend that you approve the applicant’s request for a beer and wine license with the following conditions, some of which are reflected in the application but I believe should be reiterated in approval conditions from ALRC:

- Limit hours of operations to closing at 9pm Sunday-Thursday and 11pm Fri/Sat.
- Food will be served during all hours of operation.
- Parking plan should include promotion via social media and business internal signage of off-street public parking structures.
- Deliveries will abide by city standards.

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- Recommend that the Plan Commission not approve conditional use zoning for an outdoor cooking operation including an outdoor smoker due to the potential quality of life impacts on the adjoining neighborhood. This condition shall be re-examined pending the demonstration of said smoker with the neighborhood and further review through the conditional use process, where a final determination will be made with regard to the outdoor cooking operation.
- Business will meet with neighborhood approximately 3 months post-opening to check-in regarding operations.

Thank you for your attention and thorough review of this beer/wine license request from Double S BBQ. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.