

From: [Evers, Tag](#)
To: [VNA President](#); [licensing](#)
Subject: Re: VNA Comment on Regent Mart License, ALRC Agenda #18 for 8/21/24
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 2:59:28 PM

Dear ALRC Members,

There are three items on your agenda tonight pertaining to District 13. And a fourth item involving a personal request.

First, regarding Item 39, Legistar No. 85010, Marie's Soul Food at 1637 Monroe St, Class B Combination Liquor and Beer: I am not aware of neighborhood opposition to this request to sell alcoholic beverages, including liquor, for on-site consumption. This is a rather small dining space, so one presumes the value added to the owner will not be substantial, but the applicant is not being opposed in her efforts to obtain this license. However, there is a strong neighborhood sentiment to prevent sales of carryout items of beer, wine and liquor of any container sizes in restaurant and tavern establishments. Accordingly, please add as a condition of approval that all sales of alcoholic beverages be strictly limited to on-site consumption.

Second, regarding Item 42, Legistar No. 85013, Kettle Black Kitchen at 1835 Monroe Street, Class B Combination Liquor and Beer: This is a license transfer and I'm not aware of neighborhood opposition to this application. However, the same caveat applies, and that is the neighborhood is opposed to carryout sales of alcoholic beverages from this establishment. Therefore, as a condition of approval, please limit sales to on-site consumption.

Third, regarding Item 33, Legistar No. 84234, Regent Street Mini Mart, 1401 Regent St, Class B Combination Liquor and Beer: Please refer to my comments below that were submitted for last month's ALRC meeting on August 20. After that meeting at which committee members voted to refer the item to tonight's meeting, I contacted Doug Carlson, Vilas Neighborhood Association President, and suggested he reach out to the applicant and invite her to meet with the VNA Council to see if the matter could be resolved. The applicant declined with a single word: "No."

Please see below:

[Doug Carlson] I'm sorry that we're at this point. I stuck my neck out to reach a compromise on the patio with beer, and that was clearly a bit beyond where others were on the issue. Seeking hard liquor was something that the neighborhood opposed for the original Class A and has now impaired the Class B opportunity.

Please let us know if you are going to withdraw this application or no-show for the next ALRC meeting so we don't need to waste another valuable evening.

Thanks,
-Doug

On Friday, August 23, 2024 at 04:24:51 PM CDT, meenu kaushal <meenukshl@gmail.com> wrote:

No.

On Fri, Aug 23, 2024, 4:09 PM Doug Carlson <dcarlson5dc@aim.com> wrote:
Hi Meenu (copy Alder Evers)-

Our VNA Council has not met officially since June 26, but held a discussion session regarding your changed liquor license application and then took an e-mail vote on our

position. That was filed with the ALRC prior to Wednesday's meeting, where any decision was referred to the next ALRC meeting since you were not in attendance. The VNA position is in opposition to any Class B license.

Our next VNA meeting is Wednesday 8/28 at 6:30. I wanted to give you the opportunity to get on the agenda to discuss the changed application and take questions. Are you available and do you have any interest?

**Thanks,
-Doug**

In short, the neighborhood feels somewhat betrayed by what the applicant has done, seeking permission to sell hard liquor, both for on-site consumption and carryout, and doing so without conferring with the neighborhood or district alder. Moreover, it should be evident the neighborhood has been clear in their opposition from the very start to hard liquor sales at this location, noting that hard liquor sales have never been approved previously at this location and that hard liquor sales are not approved at the nearby Quik Trip, a very similar business.

For these reasons, please deny the application for the Class B Combination Liquor and Beer License. Trust needs to be reestablished. It is my hope the applicant will reengage with the neighborhood. At some point in the future the issue of on-site consumption can be reviewed, although the applicant would be well advised to give up on the idea of selling hard liquor at this location.

Lastly, I have a personal request the ALRC develop a policy regarding "no shows." At last month's meeting, both VNA President Doug Carlson and myself sat for roughly 2 and ½ hours each waiting for the Regent Mini Mart item to come up on the agenda. Once it did, Jim Verbick informed the committee that the applicant had informed him that she would not be showing up. At no point were Doug and I informed. Hence, our time was wasted.

I expressed my frustration that evening, perhaps a bit over the top. Let me explain. I was in Dayton, Ohio, my hometown, visiting my brother-in-law in the ICU. It was my last time seeing him as he passed a week later. It was a sensitive family time. I would have much rather spent that time with family rather than sitting alone in front of my laptop.

Please adopt a policy instructing staff that when an applicant notifies they will not be attending a meeting, one in which their application is on the agenda, that the district alder and known registrants be notified so that the respective parties would have the option of not attending as well. Items for referral then could go on the consent agenda and nobody's time would be wasted. However, if the alder or the registrants still wished to appear and speak, they could opt to do so, but it would be their choice. For the sake of efficiency and respect for our residents, alders, police staff, etc., please consider this policy change.

Thank you for your consideration of all these matters.

Respectfully,

Tag Evers
District 13 Alder

From: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 6:24 PM

To: VNA President <vnapresident@gmail.com>; licensing <licensing@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Re: VNA Comment on Regent Mart License, ALRC Agenda #18 for 8/21/24

Dear ALRC Members,

This is an unfortunate set of circumstances, one that I find highly unusual.

The applicant approached the neighborhood months ago to add outdoor seating to their current license, requesting support to change from a Class A to Class B. The applicant made no mention they wished to add hard liquor to their sales, but in an updated application, checked the box to sell liquor both on premises and carryout.

The neighborhood was clear at the time the license was originally granted that they opposed hard liquor sales. Hard liquor has never been approved for sale at this location, not at Open Pantry or any other business that operated here. Neither is hard liquor available at the Quik Trip located nearby on Monroe St. This is due to the proximity to campus and this prohibition is strongly believed by the neighborhood to be sound policy.

What's most disturbing is the applicant sought to make this change without informing the neighborhood. Nor was I informed as the alder. This in my mind constitutes a breach of trust.

The applicant claims she should be able to sell hard liquor because Festival Foods is allowed to do so. Similarly, she invokes Leopold's. But those are entirely different businesses and what they are allowed to do has no bearing on what makes sense for this business in this location.

Due to this breach of trust, the neighborhood has revoked their support of outdoor sales. Nor am I willing to support this effort. Please allow the applicant one year to operate within the parameters currently in place in the hopes that trust could be reestablished.

Please vote to deny the application for a Class B permit allowing for on-side premises consumption, thereby maintaining the current Class A license to sell beer and wine with the previously approved conditions.

Thank you.

Tag Evers
District 13 Alder

From: VNA President <vnapresident@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 3:43 PM
To: licensing <licensing@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: VNA Comment on Regent Mart License, ALRC Agenda #18 for 8/21/24

Dear ALRC (copy Alder Evers, D13):

The Vilas Neighborhood Association (VNA) is registering in opposition to granting any Class B and Class C liquor license for the Regent Mart at 1401 Regent Street. In an email vote on 8/20-8/21, the majority of VNA Council members voted against granting any Class B or Class C license. Given the three voting options below, zero voted for option (1), one voted for option (2), and five voted for option (3) for no Class B license and retaining the current Class A beer only license with existing conditions.

Option 1. Support the Class B combination license including hard liquor and the Class C wine license per the application as updated sometime after June 26, 2024. Include the conditions provided by the ALRC on June 26, 2024. (zero votes)

Option 2. Support a Class B license for beer only per the original application dated and signed 3/20/24 along with the conditions provided by the ALRC and agreed to by the applicant on June 26, 2024. (one vote)

Option 3. Support granting NO Class B license for this establishment and retaining the current Class A beer only license with existing conditions. (five votes)

The VNA had not previously taken a position on this application but requested referrals on 5/15/24 since no neighborhood meeting had been held and on 6/26/24 since the application had no seating plan/map and unreasonable capacity limits, among other deficiencies. Since that time, the first page of the application was changed to include hard liquor and a Class C license without notification of the neighborhood. The VNA position is opposed to granting any Class B or Class C license.

Thanks for your consideration,
-Doug Carlson, VNA President