

To the Madison City Council:

We are writing in strong opposition to the proposed alcohol/liquor license, and subsequent placement of a tavern, at 1843 Monroe Street.

We are residents of the immediate area. (We live at 1810 West Lawn Avenue — less than a block away.) More important, we direct The Young Shakespeare Players (YSP) — a not-for-profit children's-and-young-people's theater and education organization located at 1806 West Lawn Avenue. YSP's home is even closer to the proposed tavern. Its property abuts the three-way corner of Monroe, Spooner, and West Lawn. Throughout the year, hundreds of young people, aged 7 to 18, do their work at this building during the day and evening hours. They typically make extensive use of the Monroe Street neighborhood before and after sessions, and during their breaks. We do not believe the inclusion of another tavern right here would enhance their social and educational experiences.

Please note that there are already three establishments that serve wine or beer on just one side of this one short block -- Pasqual's restaurant, Barrique's Wine Cave, and Brutta Pizza. The opposite side of the street is dominated by a supermarket that sells both beer and wine (Trader Joe's). Do we really need more alcohol served on this block? And, with one of Madison's unique young people's institutions so close by?

Our young participants are already bemused by the uncertain gaits and trajectories of substantial numbers of pedestrians on every home football Saturday in fall. Do we really believe the addition of another tavern will enhance those football Saturdays for anyone living in or using the neighborhood?

The store that now occupies the space in question is a sedate and charming antiques-and-curios shop. Placing a tavern in that same location will substantially — and perhaps permanently — change the character of the immediate vicinity.

And please do remember that this is also a residential neighborhood!

When YSP first moved into the area a decade ago, we were pleased to answer questions of residents and officials about how we would enhance — not diminish — the neighborhood. No matter how inherently responsible the owners of the proposed additional tavern might be (and we certainly have no doubt that they are), we don't see how they could possibly answer those same questions satisfactorily.

Please reject the alcohol license for this location.

Sincerely,

Richard and Anne DiPrima (1810 West Lawn Avenue, Madison); and  
The Young Shakespeare Players (1806 West Lawn Avenue, Madison)