

From: [Evers, Tag](#)
To: [licensing](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #13, Legistar #69577 - 1101 S. Park St -- Om's Liquor & More
Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 2:15:55 PM

Dear ALRC Members,

I am writing to you to underscore the concerns held by a number of Bay Creek residents regarding the application before you for a permit to operate a liquor store on the first floor of the new Emerson building located at 1101 S. Park St.

These concerns are reasonable and are due in part to issues occurring at the AmStar gas station next door. Starting in 2020, this business became a magnet for trouble, with several incidents of gunfire. Repeat criminal activity including drug dealing, stolen vehicles, and late night noise have also been reported. Residents are concerned that a liquor store whose primary source of income will be the sale of carry-out beer, wine, and liquor will not assist in addressing this ongoing concern.

There is also concern that the liquor store is incompatible given the location of an AODA treatment facility around the corner, the former Chris Farley House, now known as 5 Door Recovery,

Neighbors have expressed to me that they do not see the need for a liquor store in their neighborhood. While some lament the loss of the Barriques just north on S. Park, which provided a convenient place for some to pick up a bottle of good wine, others note that beer, wine and hard liquor are available at the nearby Pick 'n Save. (It should be noted that the new grocery store to open at the Truman Olson site currently under construction, which will be the only full-service grocery store serving the south side once Pick 'n Save closes, will also carry the full range of alcohol beverages.) Moreover, just a half mile away the same can be purchased at Regent Liquor on Regent. In short, options exist and additional alcohol density, particularly in terms of liquor store that is principally engaged in selling carry-out items, is not needed, nor is it desired.

The application before you describes a business as a liquor store that will also sell groceries, food items and bubble tea, but it would be better if it were the other way around. It is clear the primary identity would be that of a liquor store. Hence, the working title of their business, Om's Liquor & More. I understand the applicant is now willing to change the name, but changing the name alone will not suffice. It would be far better if this were to be a retail business in which alcohol sales were a secondary item, and not the primary focus of the business.

Lastly, I will add the approval process feels rushed. The applicant presented their plan to the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association just last Thursday. A number of questions were asked regarding projected product mix, the security plan, how the applicant would deal with potential problems. Answers were on the vague side: the product mix will depend on demand; we will attract and serve "good" customers; if you treat people right, they will treat you right in return.

With this degree of uncertainty, I ask you not to approve this application at this time. Perhaps the applicant, given more time, could come up with a business plan more suited to the interests and needs of the neighborhood. But at the present moment, this should not go forward.

I am available should you have any questions.

Thank you.

Tag Evers

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