I do not support the approval of a liquor license for a liquor store at 4330 Verona Road.

As residents of Avalon Madison Apartments since 2013, my husband and I have watched the neighborhood change both for better and worse. We also regularly question our lease renewal in this neighborhood every time we hear of increased violence around us, and we hear our neighbors commenting on it as well. The consistent violence at the BP gas station down the street and the Speedway on the other side of Verona Road (both of whom have liquor licenses) comes to mind. We are VERY concerned that the benefits of living on a culdesac instead of a through street would be lost with the introduction of a liquor store that would both increase traffic and decrease safety.

There is documented evidence that offsite liquor sales have an even more detrimental impact on neighborhoods than onsite liquor sales - especially on lower income neighborhoods like ours. Here is a summary of a John Hopkins study of the effects of onsite and offsite liquor sales on crime in Baltimore: https://arg.org/news/violent-crime-linked-to-liquor-stores/ Here is the link to the study itself: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/acer.13880

One cannot even argue for need as there are 5 liquor license holders within easy walking distance. Several of those locations also sell a higher percentage of necessities such as gas and groceries. I understand that vacant buildings don't benefit the community either, but what our neighborhood needs is innovation and positive impact, not another liquor store.

Sincerely,
Amy Lawson
Resident of Avalon Madison Apartments
9/19/2022