

From: [Sandy Blakeney](#)
To: [licensing; Rummel, Marsha](#)
Subject: May 16 Item 32, Change of Licensed Premises, The Atwood, 2116 Atwood Avenue
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:45:38 PM

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I'm writing to express my opposition to modifying the existing liquor license for The Atwood at 2116 Atwood Avenue.

The current conditions for this license are the result of past negotiations between neighbors, the Alder, the current owner, and the City of Madison due to untenable noise and other neighborhood disturbance issues caused by The Atwood. The conditions were approved by the ALRC and the City Council for granting the current liquor license. All of the conditions are meant to reduce noise outside the building, and they have largely succeeded. The current conditions are:

1. After 9 pm, the back door will be used as an emergency exit only.
2. No trash will be dumped or collected between 9 pm and 7 am.
3. Live music inside will end by 12:30 am
4. While there is live music, the front door will be kept closed.
5. On nights when there is live music, a staff member will manage the parking lot from 11 pm until it has cleared.

Any improvement resulting from these conditions will be undone if the requested modification is approved.

The Atwood did not provide sufficient notice to neighbors about the application to modify the existing liquor license to create a 1200-square-foot outdoor bar that would operate 7 days a week at all hours. Instead, the only notice was posted at The Atwood itself. There was no attempt to contact neighbors within sightline and earshot of this property, who would be most impacted by the requested change. No postcards were sent to nearby neighbors, there was no informational meeting, and it appears there was no involvement of the SASY Neighborhood Association.

I urge you to reject this application for the following reasons:

- The parking lot behind The Atwood has historically been a disruptive area, with people gathering in the parking lot during and after bar-time, with significant vehicle noise and exhaust.
- The proposed outdoor bar area is hidden from street view, so it cannot be supervised by police from the street.
- There is no window between the interior of The Atwood and the outdoor bar area, so staff will need to be outside to supervise.
- The proposed modification will impose a 1200-square-foot open-air bar with no controls on crowd size or crowd behavior, on the backyards of a largely residential neighborhood.

The ALRC is charged with, among other things, promoting responsible practices among those selling and/or serving alcohol, and enhancing public safety and quality of life. Therefore, I urge you to reject this application for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sandy Blakeney
2138 Linden Ave.