

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Sonja Darlington <sonjadarlington1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 8:24 PM
To: All Alders
Subject: Class A Beer License at 1129 S Park St.
Attachments: Amoco Property at 1129 S Park St..docx

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Please see attached letter, in which I request denying the Beer License for Amoco.

Thank you for reading.

Sonja Darlington
805 Emerson St.
Madison, WI 53715

To: Alders (Common Council Members)
From: Sonja Darlington
Re: Beer License at 1129 S Park St.
Date: March 3, 2024

Dear Alders,

I was not able to attend the recent ALRC meeting in regard to Amoco applying for a new Class A Beer license, but I am writing to express my opinion that this request for a beer license be denied. I live on the Emerson block nearest Amoco and have strong reasons for my opinions. The stated reasons are as follows:

1. In the past, Amoco has not shown good faith in keeping the neighborhood safe from unwanted drug dealings, and this represents an history that may likely be repeated with the sales of beer. For example, in the seven years that I have lived in my home I have called the police to report drug deals on the street near the terrace of my home on several occasions. Many other times I have observed drug deals and not reported them. Mark Schoendorff provided evidence via his careful records that there has been a connection between the customers at Amoco and drug dealings on Emerson St., particularly on the first block.
2. Amoco owners have not shown good faith in keeping the neighborhood clean and properly cared for in terms of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP):
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/projects/conditional/documents/23863StaffComments.pdf> . Over the years, I have seen lots of trash and poor upkeep of the property. Selling beer on the premises may only add beer cans to the mix.
3. Amoco was determined to be closed at 12:00 pm per previous issues (see Mark Schoendorff and Jim Winkle's records for official documentation). The emphasis on the 12:00 pm closing was due to people loitering at the station, excessive noise, and bad actors hanging out and promoting disturbances after hours. The current owners seem not to know the Conditional Use Permit existed when they requested 1:00 am hours, which may suggest they may not do better than the previous owners in terms of following the CUP or neighbor input.
4. In very close proximity, we have a Rehab Center, a very large affordable Housing Unit, and a dedicated Youth Centered Housing Development about to be built. All of these sites put added pressure on the community (including Amoco) to keep the vicinity safe, free from loitering and poor behavior, and environmentally sustainable. It appears excessive to provide more alcohol outlets nearby.
5. In a recent contentious debate on a neighborhood listserv a number of individuals vilified Mark Schoendorff for arguing against the Beer License. Among the comments made by individuals, some suggested Mark ought to move out of the neighborhood, others told him to mind his own backyard, and still others reprimanded him for being against business. On the whole, the contentious debate demonstrated how divided neighbors have become on this issue and how incivility occurs. Many of the individuals on the listserv DO NOT live on the same

block, much less next door, which Mark Schoendorff does. In fairness, this decision affects neighbors differently. Like Mark, I am in close proximity and, like him, I see similar problems with granting yet another alcohol license.

6. Lastly, it seems clear to me that business is being pitted against community values. I adhere to policies that encourage the common good, rules of safety, and environment sustainability. I do not see that giving a new Class A Beer license to Amoco benefits the nearby institutions, such as the Rehab Center, Youth Centered Housing Development (1202 S Park St) and, as importantly nearby neighbors. As others have argued, there are already plenty of places nearby to purchase alcohol. In conclusion, I encourage you to not grant the new Class A Beer License to Amoco on 1129 S Park St.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sonja Darlington
805 Emerson St.
Madison, WI 53715