

CAPITOL

NEIGHBORHOODS, INC
MADISON, WISCONSIN

March 17, 2009

Members of Alcohol License Review Committee
City Clerk's Office C/O Rhonda Staz
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 103
Madison, Wisconsin

Subject: Logans

Dear ALRC Members:

On Monday March 16, 2009 neighborhood volunteers Cliff Fisher, Melissa Berger, Julia Sherman and Jamie McCarville, city staff Katherine Plominski, Carrie Hemming, Kristen Roman met with restaurant Joe Bendetti, attorney Rick Pettri, building owner Terry McCaffery, Architect Arlan Kay and others of Logans for approximately two hours. This restaurant fills a location occupied by a bar and restaurant in the past, but with a licensed capacity that is 160-260 higher than its predecessor. A majority of the Alcohol Issues committee does not support the capacity increase.

The increased capacity violates the spirit of the density ordinance by failing to hold the overall licensed capacity level. A review of the Texas Alcohol control board database <http://www.tabc.state.tx.us/default.htm> documents multiple alcohol violations and this means applicant directly lied to neighborhood volunteers during the meeting. Capitol Neighborhoods Inc. continues to be concerned that concentrating alcohol outlets downtown will result in increased levels of personal and property crime. That is more likely to arise when over consumption of alcohol at multiple large capacity venues in close proximity. Problems escalate late at night given the number of venues that tend to morph from restaurants into bars.

Years after the issue was first raised, Madison still does not know the exact licensed capacity for the downtown campus area. This is necessary to determine safety staffing needs for this neighborhood. Overloading narrow streets and sidewalks raises the likelihood of criminal activity and malicious mischief.

The applicant's intention is to position Logan's operating primarily as a restaurant. It is our belief that the application, if granted, includes the following conditions:

- The licensed capacity is limited to 300, higher than the 232 licensed to the previous tenant. CNI is concerned that the applicant has not previously operated a licensed establishment this large and by the overall licensed capacity of the State Street area.

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- All ID bar codes are scanned into a computer system that stores the data for 5 business days.
- Drink specials are prohibited

With these conditions, CNI does not object to the granting of an alcohol license to this applicant.

Recent market research by the UW in 2007 (<http://www.downtownmadison.org/advocacy>) shows an overabundance of restaurants. Why add license when it doesn't add something to this neighborhood. The alcohol issues committee must emphasize our continuing concern about the density of alcohol licenses and capacity of establishments in the downtown that focus on alcohol sales rather than restaurant sales. We look to the ALRC and Council to address this issue given the impact that over consumption has on the safety and quality of life in the downtown.

Sincerely,



Jamie McCarville, Chair
Alcohol Issues Committee