

From: [Verveer, Michael](#)
To: [Verbick, Jim](#); [Zellers, Ledell](#)
Subject: Fwd: Taco Bell Cantina, 534 State St
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 3:27:25 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: gph4255 Hinkley
Date: November 14, 2017 at 2:54:21 PM CST
To: Mike Verveer <district4@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Taco Bell Cantina, 534 State St

Mike,

I'm not certain I'll be able to make the Wed meeting on Taco Bell Cantina liquor license with ALRC due to illness, but I have some very strong feelings I'd like to express to the ALRC. Please feel free to read my concerns. I would appreciate it.

My name is Gregg Hinkley. I've been a merchant and property owner in the 500 block of State since 1972. Not to be dramatic but I feel my block is being destroyed by a proliferation of liquor licenses, particularly by "restaurants" that morph into "Stealth Bars" at their first opportunity. At 534 State Taco Bell has a license applied for under Taco Bell, leaving out the Cantina portion. Cantina translates in Spanish to saloon, bar or tavern. I'm surprised because online under "Taco Bell Cantinas" they claim to be planning 350 new locations. The current signs over those establishments all say Cantina. Why that was left out in an area known for moratoriums, regulations and disgust with alcohol problems. The 500 block is a magnet for police calls, smashed windows and brawls. Now Taco Bell Cantina wants to add another. A major bar player. Another stealth bar. Rather than take my word for it google "Yelp Reviews Taco Bell Cantinas". A few are: **Luke W., Sans Luis Obispo, CA** *"we went there at 2am. The music was loud, people were drunk.* **Jannell L, San Marcos CA,** *"The music is super loud here. It's super loud all the time, super crowded and half the people are drunk.* **Telena V, Cerritos, CA** *"This was a very drunk experience. Most people are going to be drunk and will get even drunker.* It goes on. This tells me two things: 1. Taco Bell is bringing this onto the 500 Block under a questionable application since it doesn't state it's a Cantina. Usually that's an indicator of a "stealth bar" Keep the "saloon" part quiet. They just want to serve a few drinks with the meals they say. 2. These reviews are directly from it's customers. It shows Taco Bell management has no control or regard to pushing alcohol to drunks. They get the license, do their thing and then

the predictable problems start. I'm a businessman. Taco Bell has a right to be in one...but as a restaurant as their application states. The only compromise I can see here is a typical "restaurant" scenario. As conditions of granting: **Alcohol shuts down at ten...removed from the tables. Music for this "very loud" restaurant be "background music only".Also, tight control of the outside patio for noise and drunks.** Directly across the street is Sago Restaurant. At many previous meetings I spoke against them having alcohol past ten and background music only. They seem to be obliging and towing the line to be good holders of the privilege of a liquor license, but were already taking pictures of the large open area of the Taco Bell build-out and of the liquor application. If the ALRC deems it acceptable to grant Taco Bell alcohol past ten you're going to get two things. Reviews in Yelp exactly like I've pointed out and a new liquor license application from anyone currently treated differently. I request one additional condition to Taco Bells App if you let it pass. **No use of their back door by customers except in an emergency. Their back door empties onto my parking lot. We already have constant problems from drunks coming up the driveway.** We don't need people hanging around my tenants cars, dealing drugs (usually the biggest problem here) or starting fights. The last drunken brawl brought 13 officers and multiple police cars and a drunken stabbing. None of our doing. Please, members of the ALRC. Nip this in the bud. This is not only a business district. There are hundreds of tenants. It's residential to a lot of us. Bottom line is the majority of the landowners I know in this block want this license Denied...100%. I agree.

Thanks Mike, Gregg