

January 14, 2020

Jennifer Zilavy City Attorney's Office 210 MLK, JR. Blvd. Room 401 City-County Bldg Madison, WI 53703

Dear Ms. Zilavy,

I understand that the recently closed liquor store located at 1901 S. Park Street, adjacent to the Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC), is applying to reopen under a former employee. When the liquor store originally opened at 1901 S. Park Street it was in the Town of Madison. We had no standing at that time to prevent it from opening. The property at 1901 S. Park Street is now in the City of Madison and under the City of Madison ordinances.

As Pastor of the CMC, I humbly request that you deny a new liquor store at 1901 S. Park Street. The CMC is a Church building that provides multiple services to the neighborhood and our community as a whole. Our spiritual sanctuary is open every day of the week for private prayer. We also celebrate Mass on special occasions. We have religious education classes every week. We provide a free community meal, food pantry, classes and other services to our members and members of our community. We host daily and weekly Narcotics Anonymous meetings and weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. We also host an after-school program affiliated with Randall Elementary School for students needing help with homework. Having a liquor store adjacent to the CMC is an added burden to the individuals who are working hard to beat their addictions.

The distance from the proposed liquor store door to our parking lot door is under 150 feet (please see attached). Even the distance from the proposed liquor store door to our dining room door is under 300 feet (please see attached). The relevant ordinance states: "No Class A or Class B permit may be issued for premises the minimum entrance of which is less than 300 feet from the main entrance of any public or parochial school, hospital, church or public library, except that this prohibition may be waived by a majority vote of the Common Council. The distance shall be measured by the shortest route along the highway front main entrance of the school, church, hospital or library to the main entrance of the premises covered by the license."

While the liquor store was open, its patrons had been observed on a regular basis handing alcohol (and possibly other contraband) over to individuals on our Church property. Video

Phone: 608-661-3512 Fax: 608-661-0363 <u>www.cmcmadison.org</u> – 1862 Beld Street, Madison, WI 53713 evidence of this was sent to ALRC members in June of 2018. Since the closing of the liquor store we have experienced a significant drop in the number of behavioral issues and loitering issues that we had to address on a regular basis. In addition, since the closing of the store on November 15th, the number of alcohol related police calls for the area are down significantly from the same period in 2017 and 2018.

I ask that the ordinance listed above is enforced and that the proposed liquor license is denied.

In His Peace,

Msgr. Ken Fiedler

Pastor, Catholic Multicultural Center

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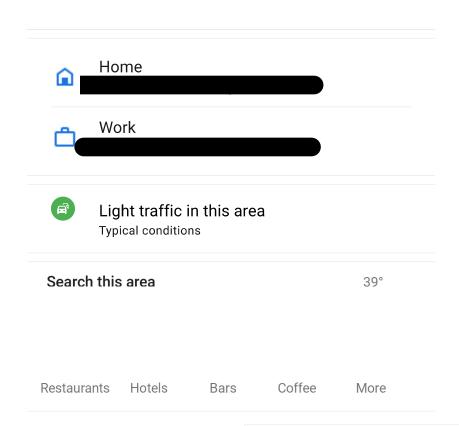
Attachments







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Measure distance

Total distance: 281.74 ft (85.87 m)