

**From:** [sarah.teniente](#)  
**To:** [licensing](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to the relicensing of JoBeck's in Madison  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:12:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [letter to captain snyder JoBecks.pdf](#)

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Hi.

My name is Sarah Teniente. I live behind JoBeck's. I have lived at 512 Davidson St. since June of 2002.

I have complained about JoBeck's for many years with NO avail. I have contacted 2 aldermen, the neighborhood association and the police. No one has ever seemed to care about the noise disturbances my family has been living with for all these years.

JoBecks has loyal clientele that patronizes the establishment at all hours of the day and all days of the week. They have several customers that come in with loud motorcycles and blaring car stereos. Very often, the people with motorcycles will come into the parking lot and rev up their engines for extended periods of time.

I've witnessed fights and screaming matches on a regular basis. Often, the disturbances can be heard with ALL windows closed. A lot of times, we close the windows and run the air conditioner just to avoid listening to them all night. At some point, I began resorting to calling the police only when I thought someone seriously might die--which has happened at least 3 times.

It seems to me that JoBecks is happily making money without regard to the safety or health and well-being of their *own* customers. They have repeatedly demonstrated that coexisting in a neighborhood of families is of NO concern to them or maybe they are in the impossible position of having let the disturbances go on so long that everyone knows there will be no consequences for their behavior.

I don't know what it will take for city to revoke their liquor license. Through the years, I have been told I was the only one complaining or the only one who cared. I am attaching the letter I wrote to Captain Thomas Snyder on 5/31/17 that provides a history of my attempts to have my voice heard.

I am concerned about retaliation. A former owner (when it was "Winnie's") once came to my house to scream at me after I had contacted the police over a noise disturbance. I still wonder if I had I not answered the door with my newborn baby in arms, if screaming was the only thing she had in mind.

Perhaps the city should reconsider having a bar like JoBeck's in this particular space at all. For all the reasons mentioned above (and all the years we've had to endure it), please consider **not** renewing JoBeck's liquor license.

Thank you for your time,  
Sarah Teniente

5/31/2017

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Sarah Teniente  
512 Davidson St.  
Madison, WI 53716

Captain Thomas Snyder  
East Police District  
Madison Police Department  
809 Thompson Dr.  
Madison, WI 53714

**Dear Captain Snyder,**

I am writing to you about the noise disturbances from the business, JoBeck's, on Cottage Grove Road. I understand that my new neighbors are also struggling with the level of noise coming from that establishment. I have lived at 512 Davidson St. since June 2001 and can offer you some insight into the history of the problem.

Ever since the smoking ban, customers have been congregating in the back of the building to smoke and drink. Regardless of the owners of the establishment, the clientele has generally been loud, inappropriate, vulgar and confrontational. There is no general time for them to be out there as I have heard them out there as early as 9 or 10 am. The day of the week also does not matter, the same people are out there every day, and they often fight with each other. My family calls them, "The Bar People."

The business behind my house has almost always been a source of frustration for my family. I formally contacted my alderman in 2007 and 2009, who was then Larry Palm. I was told that after an informal survey, no one else had a problem with the establishment, so nothing was done. I talked to the Lake Edge Neighborhood Association when I felt that my alderman was reluctant to help me when the establishment became JoBeck's. I had hoped that talking to the new owner would eliminate old problems. Tim Saterfield, from the Neighborhood Association, offered to talk then new owner, and he seemed eager to make sure we did not have problems. That enthusiasm was short-lived.

I could give you a long list of the offensive language and behavior coming from that establishment. I used to call and ask them to shut their back door because the music is so loud and often customers yell to each other from outside to inside and vice versa. They eventually stopped answering my calls. I generally try not to call the police every time they are loud

because I would be calling almost every night. I usually only call when it sounds like they are killing each other. There are often fights there and in the parking lot. The days closest to the Fourth of the July are usually unbearable, as they like to shoot off fireworks in the parking lot.

There used to be shrubbery along the fencing, but the owner of Winnie's cut it all down to make more room for parking. It exposed my children to the customers out back. Sometimes they would try to talk to my children and would make comments about what we were doing in our yard. I asked the then owner to build a privacy fence, but she refused. She came to my house to confront me and yell at me. So, I spent over \$600 planting trees to create a barrier, but it didn't really help. At one point, after Winnie's became JoBeck's, a woman who was fighting with a man threw his car keys in my yard. He climbed our chain-link fence while people were yelling at him. I woke up in the middle of the night to find a strange drunk man using his cell phone as a flashlight to look for his keys in my yard. That was terrifying. That is when I gave up asking anyone to help me and decided to spend over close to \$5000 to put up a privacy fence.

The fence might have provoked them to be louder or retaliate by throwing garbage and beer bottles in my yard. There is one customer in particular who rides a motorcycle and likes to rev the engine. He tears into and out of the parking lot on a regular basis, and speeds down Cottage Grove Rd. He used to back up to my yard, rev the engine and kick up gravel and dust into my lawn. As recently as May 13, a motorcyclist in their parking lot revved up his motorcycle to the point where my entire backyard was covered in thick white exhaust smoke. I had to close my windows, but, hours later, you could still smell the exhaust.

It seems unfair that we, my family and my neighbors, have to deal with this. We like where we live, but have often thought about moving just because of the noise. For myself and my family, I had given up. I felt like all of my attempts have fallen on deaf ears. Every spring, we are excited to open the windows....and then we hear the people behind the bar, and our smiles drop into frowns. It's sad that we can't enjoy our own backyard because of The Bar People. What's worse is being *inside* the house and hearing them clearly; sometimes, even when the windows are closed.

So, when I heard my new neighbors felt the same as we did, I thought there could still be hope to live peacefully side by side with this business. However, when I heard my neighbors' complaints were being met with "Well...no one else is complaining..." that inspired me to write this letter. I have been on the other side, "Well...no one is listening. No one cares."

If you are listening, we will be calling. I will start keeping a log. If you could suggest anything we could do in addition to calling, I would greatly appreciate it. Personally, I'm not looking to have them go out of business, but they could start being good neighbors by vigilantly keeping the back door closed and asking their customers to smoke outside in the front.

I appreciate your time and hope this letter has given you the background you need to take our complaints seriously. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Sarah Teniente