

To the City of Saint Paul

I am the owner of The Black Hart of Saint Paul and Black Hart Properties (which owns the property at 1415 University Avenue W). I am also a Midway resident, living just a couple blocks from the bar. We are applying to have our liquor license extended to cover the adjacent lot at 1401 University Ave W. We are finalizing the purchase of the lot.

Much like the rest of the service industry, COVID has reinforced our need for outdoor spaces for people to gather and currently we have only the sidewalk patio with 10 seats on it. Additionally, the grass lot at 1401 has remained empty for over a decade, often serving as a dumping spot for trash.

My hope for this patio is that it will be an oasis on University in Midway, drawing our neighbors to the avenue and sitting outside on warm afternoons. And that it will be a place where even more soccer fans come to celebrate wins.

As part of this process, I spent months knocking on neighbors' doors and had a good number of conversations. Many of these neighbors I see from time to time or regularly in Black Hart and others I had never met. I am submitting the signatures of 60% of these neighbors who enthusiastically approved the idea. A good number of signatures are hard to gather since the owners are out of state or a few were just not home in the 10 days I went door-knocking. Many I tracked down through self-addressed and stamped envelopes.

This plan was also very warmly received by the Hamline Midway District Council and they will be submitting a letter in support.

I am also submitting a preliminary plan of the patio done by Adam Jarvi at New Studio Architecture. We are currently working with the civil engineers and the city on the building permits that will be required. To give an overview, though, we plan to develop .25 acres of the .33 acres, with .08 acres being used for water mitigation and native plants. The developed and enclosed portion of the patio will have space for food trucks to regularly set up. We also hope to construct bocce courts so we can regularly host bocce leagues.

We look forward to discussion with the city on this project and thank you in advance for your attention and time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wes Burdine', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Wes Burdine

Owner of The Black Hart of Saint Paul