

June 22, 2018

Legislative Hearing Officer
310 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55102

To Whom It May Concern:

As per the license application notification letter that I received from the Department of Safety and Inspections, attached please find a copy of my comments/objections regarding the liquor license application by Black Hart of Saint Paul LLC for the bar establishment at 1415 University Ave W.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns and offer to forego the requirement of a legislative hearing in this matter if the new owner is willing to accept additional conditions that I have proposed.

Sincerely,

Tom Goldstein

1399 Sherburne Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55104
651.644.8558

Thomas D. Goldstein

1399 Sherburne Ave • St. Paul, Minnesota 55104 • 651-644-8558 • tomgoldstein57@gmail.com

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Legislative Hearing Officer
310 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: Black Hart of Saint Paul License Application #20180001270

To Whom It May Concern:

I am formally contacting you regarding the recommended license conditions for the above-referenced liquor application.

As a fourteen-year Midway resident living within approximately five hundred feet of the current Town House Bar, I have experienced many negative impacts as the result of the bar's presence in my neighborhood. Over the past decade, particularly during the summer months, I have been awakened at 2:00 a.m. (or later) by departing bar patrons shouting, arguing, slamming car doors, screeching of tires as cars pull away, etc. I've witnessed fights, screaming arguments, drunken patrons, urinating in bushes, etc.

Whenever I brought these concerns to the current bar owner, she never acknowledged any responsibility for her patrons or offered to do anything to lessen these impacts. When I described incidents of public drunkenness among departing patrons, she insisted those individuals were not served at her bar. In the entire time I have lived here, I've never seen the bar do anything to benefit the local neighborhood other than claim that because they pay property taxes that makes them a "good" neighbor.

I would like to think that the new owners of the bar are going to be more responsive to neighborhood concerns, but since my only interaction with co-owner Wesley Burdine is a Facebook post by him calling me a "terribly bitter man" (see attached)—because I posted a sarcastic comment about traffic impacts from future soccer games at the new stadium—I'm not confident that will be the case. As such, while I support the proposed conditions that have been recommended by DSI staff, I feel they do not go far enough to ensure that the bar will be an asset to the neighborhood rather than merely another establishment with which the neighborhood must co-exist.

Specifically, I would like to see four additional conditions imposed on this business, similar to those required as part of the recently-approved liquor license for Tavern on the Avenue:

1. A security presence that will ensure not only an “orderly exit of bar patrons at bar close,” but prevent loitering and lingering on the neighborhood streets and sidewalks—which too often happens now.
2. Signage posted at all entrances and exits to remind patrons that they are in a residential neighborhood and should behave accordingly.
3. No dumping of beer bottles or other recyclables into outdoor alley receptacles after midnight. (This often occurs at 2:00 a.m. around bar close.)
4. Contracting with a trash hauler that will abide by residential requirements of a 7:00 a.m. starting time. (The current hauler frequently picks up the trash/recycling on weekdays between 5:00 and 5:30 a.m.)

Although I have been a vocal critic of public funding for sports stadiums—and remain so—it is my hope that the Black Hart will be a popular hangout and a successful venture for Mr. Burdine and his co-owner(s). I would just like to see the establishment respectful of the neighbors that live on the adjacent streets, something that has not been the case with ownership of the Town House Bar.

I will add that if the additional conditions I’ve requested above become part of the liquor license application, I would be willing to withdraw my objections and perhaps avoid the necessity of a hearing before a legislative hearing officer. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Goldstein".

Tom Goldstein

Wes Burdine <notification+kjdmmmmuwm5m@facebookmail.com>

5/22/2018 9:56 PM

Re: [Hamline Midway Neighbors] So many changes on Snelling,
and now I see Garden...

To Hamline Midway Neighbors <55720173893@groups.facebook.com>

Wes Burdine commented on Kay Vesley's post in Hamline Midway Neighbors.



Wes Burdine

5:31pm May 22

Hi Tom, I moved to Midway and purchased a business that I'm renovating solely because of the investment that had gone into the neighborhood from the light rail, stadium, and A Line. I wish you weren't such a terribly bitter man that you had to let it spill over into public spheres. But I love this neighborhood and am excited to be part of building on its positivity. K. Bye!

Comment History