

Dear Council Members:

As a nearby resident to the gas station located at 1347 University Avenue W, I am writing to strongly urge the immediate revocation of the operating license for Midway University & Hamline LLC Licensee d/b/a Midway Amoco BP when you consider this matter at tomorrow's City Council hearing.

This action is long overdue, and any decision other than license revocation will only further exacerbate the damage to the surrounding community that has resulted from the negligent management of this business by the current owner.

A simple online search for "Midway BP Amoco" will yield numerous headlines about the trouble associated with this establishment, aptly described in complaints to the Hamline Midway Coalition about "fighting, aggressive panhandling, noise, drug use, public urination, trash, and shots fired at Midway Amoco" that appear in the Administrative Law Judge's FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION."

Since the current owner took over the BP, there has been a steady decline in operations, appearance, and customer relations, leading to more and more openly criminal activity in the parking lot and culminating in the "fatal shooting of 22-year-old Dajuon Johnson" last summer. The fact that there have been years of open drug dealing, prostitution, and gun fire associated with this location--yet only now is revocation being considered--is itself hugely frustrating for those of us who have had to tolerate this activity on a daily basis.

I honestly do not remember a time in the 15-plus years that I have lived a block away from this gas station in which so much unwanted activity has spilled over into the neighborhood, from gun shots, drug selling, and cars racing down the alley (that runs behind the station) to 13- and 14-year-olds hanging around until 3 or 4 a.m. during the summer. I believe the gas station has been the magnet for much of this activity, and I have personally observed fights breaking out, drugs being sold, and people being harassed as they walk by the station.

Thankfully, SPPD has done a great job in beefing up patrols, responding timely to criminal activity in the vicinity, and maintaining a visible police presence in and around the Midway BP. But is this how we want to deploy our police resources? Cleaning up the messes created by negligent ownership?

ALJ Lafave's recommendation of an upward departure "from the presumptive penalty" and revocation of the Midway Amoco's licenses for the violations of law" cited in his report are completely appropriate. Please vote to accept his recommendations in full so the city can begin the process of transitioning to a more responsible owner--or a completely new neighborhood-appropriate use at that location. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom Goldstein

1399 Sherburne Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Dear Council Members:

I want to support the revocation of the operating license for Midway University & Hamline LLC Licensee d/b/a Midway Amoco BP at today's City Council hearing.

As a neighbor and homeowner in the Hamline Midway for 33 years, I have observed and experienced its increasingly degrading presence on a daily basis.

In the past few years, I have made numerous complaints to appropriate City and State offices regarding the following:

- habitual failure to shovel snow from sidewalks
- habitual failure to pick up trash
- allowing loitering on the premises
- violent behavior outside BP spilling onto the public sidewalk and onto the light rail platform
- gasoline fumes in the neighborhood from improper venting
- allowing a dangerously missing grate to remain unrepaired next to the public sidewalk.

It is clear — the City cannot make this business become a good neighbor.

Midway Amoco BP has never consistently demonstrated a genuine effort to be a positive force for good in the Hamline Midway neighborhood.

Instead, it is a depressing presence located at a significant intersection — with a light rail station that is being adversely affected by it.

Thank you.

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Laurie Mattila