

April 11, 2019

Dear Kris Schweinler, Jeff Fischbach and the Legislative Hearing Officer:

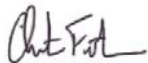
I am writing to voice my disapproval of the *Taste of Rondo's* liquor license application. I can see no compelling reason to re-introduce liquor sales to a neighborhood that has fought for years to have the existing properties with licenses revoked or shut down. The residential area has suffered as a result of liquor sales allowed by the former businesses at 976 Concordia, the *VFW*, and the *Pioneer Club* (the last of these remains in operation to this day). While the *Taste of Rondo* should not necessarily be judged based on these establishments, that history cannot be overlooked. The neighborhood deserves a full, transparent, and careful review to prevent the mistakes of the past from repeating themselves.

My experience, having lived in the neighborhood for two years, is that I have become more familiar with 911 and non-emergency dispatch than I ever expected. Numerous calls have been made regarding traffic & parking, drug deals, general nuisance, and shootings. The epicenter of those calls has always been related to the one component that is not conducive to a neighborhood: the corner bar. In my two years, there have been two shootings tied to patrons of such an establishment. In any location, that is two too many. Remove that component (we see this on days that the business is closed), and miraculously the neighborhood settles down.

For me, what this means for the *Taste of Rondo* is simple: wait and see. While Mr. Carter's plan *looks* to be well thought out, it is just that, his plan. Reality may be far different, and the realization of this will be left to the neighborhood, long after the planning council and other governing bodies have long since forgotten about it. Enforcement and eternal vigilance then become the burden of the concerned residents and an overstretched police force.

I can support the *Taste of Rondo* opening as a restaurant. In fact, would encourage it heartily. A consideration of liquor sales, given the abundance of history, must follow *only* after a track record is well established.

Regards



Christopher Fischer
901 Carroll Avenue

cc.

Dai Thao, Ward 1 City Councilmember