

## **\*CI-StPaul\_LH-Licensing**

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**From:** Linnea Olson <linnea.olson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2013 12:35 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_LH-Licensing  
**Subject:** Eden Pizza

Hello Nhia,

I wanted to write to you about the upcoming hearing regarding Eden Pizza's request to obtain a license to sell beer and wine.

I have lived in the Hamline Midway area of St. Paul my entire life, my parents live on Minnehaha and Fairview, and 3 years ago my husband and I bought our first house on Lafond Avenue half a block from Eden Pizza. I love this area of town and the community. When we first moved to Lafond we frequented Eden Pizza regularly and passed on recommendations to friends and family often.

However with the recent change in ownership we have been extremely disappointed in the changes that Eden has made from the quality of their food to the service that we have received there. I have also had many friends have similar experiences since the ownership change. Because of these changes we have stopped ordering food from Eden all together.

I very against Eden Pizza obtaining a liquor license. Not only because of the changes that they have made in the business but also because I am very worried that this will drastically change the neighborhood for the worse. I am nervous that with the sale of beer and wine especially if sales are allowed outside on their patio area in front of the shop, we will lose the quiet neighborhood that we chose to live in. I am concerned about noise, the addition of traffic and loss of parking that will be a result of this change. I feel that with the church across the street already challenges with parking in our area.

I am also very against this license as an expectant parent. My husband and I are having our first child in November and specifically picked our house on Lafond because it wasn't near any bars. I don't want to worry about drivers leaving after drinking and driving directly down the street in front of my house. I am seriously worried about the safety in the area if this license is approved.

I am going to try and be present at the hearing tomorrow. I would love to hear your thoughts as the hearing officer involved, as well as if you believe that I should be in touch with anyone else from the city on this issue.

Thank you for your time.

Linnea Olson

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## **\*CI-StPaul\_LH-Licensing**

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**From:** Dave Olson <olsondavid2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2013 2:20 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_LH-Licensing  
**Cc:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward4  
**Subject:** Eden Pizza

Dear Nhia Vang,

I live in the neighborhood of Eden Pizza and oppose any form of liquor license for this business. While I live about three blocks away from Eden Pizza, I've been a customer there for a long time, and I also consider the people on Lafond to be my neighbors. I know several of them, including my daughter and her husband who live on Lafond a few doors the to west of Eden Pizza.

My opposition is based primarily on the inevitable disruption that adding drinking will bring to the quiet residential neighborhood in which Eden is located, a neighborhood virtually exclusively of houses, not businesses. I am in no way convinced that adding alcohol to the menu will make the neighborhood quieter or more peaceful, or that it will decrease traffic and parking congestion. This is not a commercial district, it's a residential neighborhood that happens to have this business grandfathered into the middle of it.

Adding alcohol to their menu will change the nature of the business from being primarily a pizza pick up and delivery business to more of a dine-in, pub atmosphere. How can that be good for the immediate neighbors and their families?

Adding drinking to this very small establishment will certainly increase traffic and noise, and during the summer months when they have been placing tables on the boulevard, that noise will spill outdoors and likely become, at least sometimes, disruptive to the people living only a few yards away. There are young children in the neighborhood, and there are elderly in the neighborhood. I see nothing good for them in having drinking at Eden Pizza.

I've been getting take-out pizza from Eden for a long time, and only rarely have I seen someone eating-in at Eden. The intent of this application is to change that. If granted it will certainly impact the neighbors in ways that are unlikely to be positive. As a primarily take-out and delivery business, there are seldom customers on premises for more than a few minutes. Even at that it can still be difficult to park to pick up a pizza. If people are coming in numbers traffic on this quiet residential street will be increased, and as they stay for perhaps an hour, parking will become much more of a problem for the neighbors.

There simply isn't the physical space to create a buffer zone to isolate the immediate neighbors from the almost certain noise and disruption from adding drinking at Eden. Alcohol doesn't have a reputation of promoting public tranquility and quiet. It's not possible to know what this change will do to the quality of life of neighbors. Maybe nothing would change, but I doubt that. I suspect that it won't decrease noise, and it won't decrease traffic, but rather do just the opposite.

I'm sure that the new owners of Eden Pizza want to increase their profitability. They recently bought the business from the previous owners, and now want a change to the licensing to add alcohol to their menu. While they might make them a larger profit if this licensing is granted, this is a neighborhood, NOT a commercially zoned street like Snelling Avenue is. My belief is that in a residential neighborhood, the first priority must be the residents, not some business that happens to be located there and wants to expand into serving alcohol as

well as food.

Eden is in the middle of a fully residential neighborhood. I'm asking that you put the residents first, and not this business. I'm asking that this application be rejected.

I'm concerned about how an alcohol license at Eden will affect the quality of life of the people living near the business. In truth, we just don't know what would happen, but I can see no argument that doing this will enhance their quality of life. Please put their concerns first and do not conduct an experiment on this neighborhood. Please reject this application.

Dave Olson  
1787 Minnehaha Ave W