

From: Sheila Elliott
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 10:15 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1
Cc: Derek Anders-Turner
Subject: The Lex - Public Hearing on March 16th

Dear Councilmember Thao,

When we moved to our home at 8xx Carroll Avenue 12 years ago we understood that living in a densely populated area inherently meant that crime events would happen more frequently in our neighborhood than other places we could live. However, the number of events that have happened on our block and within our area are disproportionate when I have compared with people I know who live in other areas of St. Paul.

On our property alone, there has been a fistfight in our backyard between two people I did not know, a stolen car crashed into the hill next to our back door, a suspect found hiding under the grill cover on our back porch, and a shooter entering a getaway car parked at our curb. Our yard, porch, and garage have been searched by police for suspects on multiple occasions. These are just the incidents for which I was home to witness. In addition I have found alcohol containers, drug paraphernalia and used condoms on my property, and have been approached in my yard on numerous occasions by strangers harassing me, asking me for money, and making uninvited, unwelcome and inappropriate comments about me. This has lead us to install a privacy fence around our backyard so I can be outside on my property and feel comfortable that I am not going to be surprised or threatened by anyone.

The traffic outside the Pioneer Club often creates dangerous situations for drivers and pedestrians. Guests of that club stop their cars in the middle of the street and alley and do not always move when other cars approach, people stand in the street to talk and do not move for traffic, and club visitors park so densely that Milton is reduced to one lane and cars often have to back up to allow oncoming traffic to pass (creating risk to the many pedestrians at the Milton/Concordia corner and to other cars trying to turn onto Milton from Concordia and Carroll). Some of these guests also walk into the surrounding properties, leaving litter, urinating on people's property, harassing residents and their dogs, etc. Not to mention the crimes that have happened on the Pioneer Club property and the street outside.

In the last few years these incidents have lessened significantly, and I believe this is due to two changes. First, the American Legion was closed, reducing stranger traffic in the area. Second, the neighbors have come together to watch out for each other and have established a rapid and effective communication system to keep everyone informed on who is in our neighborhood and what they are doing.

Based on the events that have happened so far at The Lex, the lack of crowd control and planning on the part of the property owners and managers is very worrisome. After the good progress we have made in our neighborhood to make it a safer place for everyone who lives here, I can't support another club that by the evidence to date will bring more drinking and inappropriate/illegal behavior to the area. Unless The Lex proposes a reasonable and detailed business plan that addresses the concerns of the neighborhood to our satisfaction, and can show

that they will manage their guests' behavior in a responsible and appropriate way, I do not support licensing this property.

I will be unable to attend the Public Hearing on March 16th but wanted to be sure my opinion is included in the decision.

Thank you,
Sheila Elliott