

May 16th 2012

Dear City Council Members:

My name is Mary Hogan-Bard and I am the owner of Claddagh Coffee located at 459 West 7th Street. We opened our doors nine months ago on August 15th 2011. Our business is doing well but we see an opportunity to grow our business and respond to the request of many our customers by obtaining a wine and beer license. Unfortunately, under current law we are required to have 10 off street parking spaces which are not available at our location. The proposed ordinance that would make it easier for small restaurants with limited off street parking to serve beer and wine would be a significant boost to our business and I believe to the neighborhood as well.

We are in a strong neighborhood with great community. We host artists and openings, authors and book readings, neighborhood meetings, musicians and various other social gatherings. Our hours of business are:

Monday- Thursday 7am-8pm.
Friday 7am-9pm.
Saturday 8am.-8pm.
Sunday 8am.-5pm.

A number of customers, most of whom live in the neighborhood, have expressed an interest in having a glass of wine or a beer instead of cup of coffee in the evening. We are first and foremost a specialty coffee shop that serves bakery, sandwiches, small plates and other light fare. Adding beer and wine in the evening would help our business be more successful but also be a nice alternative to a full bar and restaurant for our customers.

I strongly support the proposed ordinance reducing parking requirements for small restaurants in St. Paul. Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Hogan-Bard
Owner, Claddagh Coffee

