



Macalester Groveland

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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4/22/2016

Legislative Hearing Officer
310 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: License Application #20120004145, D Lish LLC dba Grand Central

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to share comments we have received regarding the applications for the addition of Liquor-Outdoor Service Area (Patio) and Liquor-Outdoor Service Area (Sidewalk) licenses to the existing Wine on Sale, Malt on Sale (Strong) and Entertainment (A) licenses at this property.

The following concerns have been shared with us by several neighboring property owners:

- 1) **Parking.** Grand Central café operates under a parking variance granted in 2011 to the Grand Sandwich shop which had fewer permanent and seasonal seats than Grand Central café. The proposed patio space behind the building would remove the only dedicated parking spaces for staff members of Grand Central café as well as Shish Café, another restaurant operating with a parking variance also owned by the applicant on the same block.
- 2) **Hours.** The proposed conditions do not mention hours of operation. This is a dense, mixed-use urban block with a variety of business as well as residential uses. There is one outdoor patio currently operating on the same block that has agreed to maintain a curfew of 9:30pm Monday through Friday and 10pm on weekends. If this patio is ultimately approved, a similar agreement would seem reasonable.
- 3) **Patio.** There is concern that the expansion of outdoor operations at this establishment will increase existing issues with trash in the alley and also with amplified music. Currently, the owners maintain one dumpster set located at their other business on the block (Shish Café). Trash is transported between the two businesses through the alley which results in occasional scattered debris. Additionally, given the density of residential and business uses in the immediate area, we have heard concerns about continuing and potentially expanding amplified music outdoors.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Liz Boyer
Executive Director
Macalester-Groveland Community Council