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Dear City of Saint Paul Council Members,

This letter is in regards to shootings over the past months, and years at El Alamo Cantina. I am primary owner of El Burrito Mercado, our family owned business has been here since 1979, it is now operated by myself, my sister, and my niece.

We are writing to express our immense concern for the continued acts of violence and human endangerment at or near Alamo. Our family are huge supporters of entrepreneurs and small business of all types, we wish to them all succeed. However, we also that believe that with being an owner, especially in a residential community, comes a deep responsibility for the well being of the customers and for our community as a whole. We try and practice what we preach, and we hope our neighboring business' do the same, and this is why I write this letter, when there are several incidents of shootings at a business, something is definitely not being addressed, and that is a choice.

All choices have consequences, as a business owner, you and only you have the exclusive right to establish the kind of climate you create in your own business- it's your own business, your vision, your marketing, your brand, and we can blame nobody for it being anything we don't want it to be. We can't control the people that come in to our business, we can't control how people behave, however, we can respond by controlling the environment and having a zero tolerance for certain unwanted behaviors. There is simply no excuse for multiple shootings at a business in our neighborhood! After the last shooting extreme measures could have been taken to change the environment in and around the bar. There are so many ways to achieve this, to name a few examples: hire a business consultant, change your image, work with WSCO, NEDA, St Paul Police, come to meetings and get involved in the community.

This is our community, this is our customers, these are our family and friends in this neighborhood, and it concerns and affects us all!

This may not be the best example but it's what comes to mind. Our business got fined recently because of a broken cooler that we thought had been repaired because it was working days prior to the inspection, but when the inspector came, the temp was off again. In spite of demonstrating paid invoices, we will be fined. And for this a fine seems an appropriate consequence. We get it and food safety is important to us, we are diligent on these issues, if food doesn't hold certain temps after a period of time it's a risk that food goes bad and a person

can get sick, it's part of the risk in our industry. As additional result of this, we threw away 100lb of food AND will pay a fine and already lost on the paid invoices for the cooler. It kinda boggles my mind, that a business that has continuous shootings where human lives are at risk of violence and death? My point of sharing this is to implore that you please make sure the consequence be fitting. Every business has varying level of risks, but one can only remain in business by minimizing risks and implementing safe and secure practices.

I trust that you all have the best interest of human lives in mind, and thus your decision will be one that reflects accountability for business to operate in a way that our community and visitors feel safe. We have nothing personal against the owner of Alamo, we don't know him/her, however we do expect a fair and serious consequence as a result from the most recent and repeat shooting at this neighborhood business.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

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