

From: [christine wahlstrom](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: 1811 Selby Ave, Local Rumor
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 1:16:13 PM
Attachments: [1811 Selby Ave.docx](#)
Importance: High

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Christine Wahlstrom

Phone: 651-271-1928

Email: ctraveler@msn.com

Attached is a letter regarding the new restaurant 1811 Selby Ave; Local Rumor

Sincerely,

Christine Wahlstrom

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Dear Mr. Fishbach,

I received the letter sent out by City of St. Paul, Department of Safety and Inspections regarding a new business called "Local Rumor" opening at 1811 Selby Ave, applying for Liquor On Sale-100 seat or less, Liquor On Sale-Sunday and Liquor-Outdoor Service Area (Sidewalk)

I do not want this business or any business at this location to be allowed to have outdoor service of any type (no liquor or liquor) and would prefer they not be given a liquor license of any type.

Having lived at my address for over 20 years, I have witnessed and been a patron to numerous businesses that have occupied 1811 Selby Ave. Of those previous businesses that have occupied 1811 Selby Ave, the best and most compatible to the neighborhood was the coffee shop. The worst business in that specific location was the Blue Door. The Blue Door was "ok" when they had only indoor service. The noise was still bad, due to people waiting in line outside of the Blue Door to get inside (because of the small size of the restaurant/bar resulting in capacity issues) or when patrons of the Blue Door came out to smoke, in spite of the Blue Door's signs of "Please be respectful to the neighborhood." Drinking or drunk people don't care about this. When sidewalk service, no alcohol was allowed, the noise, conversations, yelling, etc. became worse. In all instances, from my porch, I could clearly hear what people were ordering to eat/drink, their conversations, their yelling at each other, their laughing, their bad language, etc. Spring, summer and fall, I have my windows open all the time. I don't want to be privy to people's conversations, bad language and at times obnoxious behaviors, much less being awakened to loud people or drunk people sitting outside at 1811 Selby or returning to the college or going to their vehicles which are parked on my block. These are events that have happened in the past and I don't want a re-occurrence of this.

With the closing of Blue Door, it has been uneventful and peaceful on my block and at the intersection of Fairview and Selby. I do not want to be forced to deal with drunk people in my neighborhood **again**. I don't want students stopping and peeing in my yard or on the trees on the boulevard. I don't want to wake up and find clothing on my porch couch, or litter in my front yard and the boulevard. And, I don't want to again be put in dangerous situations as happened in a previous incident when guy and girl were walking past my house, late at night, arguing. He was drunk. I could hear them from inside my house. I went outside because it was becoming louder and the girl was sounding scared and beginning to cry. As I was coming out and off my porch, they were walking just past my house and going towards my neighbor's house. I was at the sidewalk in front of my yard, when the guy suddenly shoved the girl into the neighbor's pine tree and was getting very aggressive with her. (Across from the pine tree is a street light, which allowed me to see what was going on) I called 911. They couldn't get to my house to help this girl from this aggressive drunk guy, but remained on the phone while I attempted to help with the drunk guy. I was able to get the girl away from the drunk guy, but not without difficulty as he continued to grab for the girl the entire time while I was trying get her away from him and to get him to leave. The drunk guy finally gave up and left. Thankfully, the girl nor I was hurt. But, this situation not only scared me to death, but put me in a really bad and dangerous situation. I don't want to ever have to be forced into that type of position again.

In today's climate, it would be more dangerous. Fortunately for me, this situation happened before guns were readily available, as they are today. And, this was when we had more police and better police resources. Now, you must assume everyone has a gun and be aware that St. Paul's police resources are not as plentiful as in the past. The police couldn't respond then and they definitely couldn't respond now, given the little to no resources available to police. Our police are spread too thin, trying to manage the currently increasing gun violence occurring at bars/restaurants, in the streets, in neighborhoods and apartment buildings.

Another frequently occurring problem was also parking. It was a problem then and will once again become worse in this already busy little neighborhood. Currently, there are apartment buildings, student housing, numerous businesses and homeowners on and surrounding this block, who park on the street and rely on having street parking available to them. Overflow parking ends up on my block since I am close to 1811 Selby. I had numerous Blue Door patrons parking in front of my house. I understand this is a public street, but, many times, I couldn't find a parking spot in front of my house for myself or for my friends and/or family, when they came to my house for a visit.

Since the closing of the Blue Door, time on my porch has been much more enjoyable and a lot less dangerous for me. I want you to know, I love sitting on my porch having coffee, tea, reading, and just relaxing in my rocking chair. I bought my house over 20 years ago because it had this beautiful porch. I love this neighborhood I live in. We have older, middle and younger generations with kids, all living here. It is great! I like the idea of a restaurant at 1811 Selby Ave. But, I don't want everything that would come with alcohol, and with outdoor, sidewalk seating.

There are so many other locations in the city of St. Paul better suited for a bar/restaurant , **on sale liquor, Sunday and Liquor- Outdoor Service/Sidewalk** than 1811 Selby Ave. I will say it again, I oppose the **On Sale Liquor Outdoor Service/Sidewalk** at 1811 Selby Ave. **I would also like to put it on record, that I also oppose 1811 Selby Ave being issued a liquor license as well.**

Sincerely,
Christine Wahlstrom
651-271-1928