

J. 1) traffic & parking  
2) family neighborhood  
3) gambling - proven addiction  
gambling & alcohol feed off each other.

Dear Sirs:

Introducing gambling at La Cucharacha would certainly worsen already serious parking problems. In an area as congested as Grand Avenue and Dale Street, gambling, if it increased patronage of La Cucharacha - surely the hoped-for result - would only add to these problems.

\* Over time, would degrade property values.

Other factors need to be taken into account: La Cucharacha is not set in an ordinary neighborhood, in a dingy part of town, next to used-car lots, strip malls or fast-food outlets.

La Cucharacha happens to be just down from Summit Avenue, part of the best collection of Victorian houses in the country; it's less than a block from the F. Scott Fitzgerald house on Summit, it's near an art gallery and a shop where they sell fine pottery.

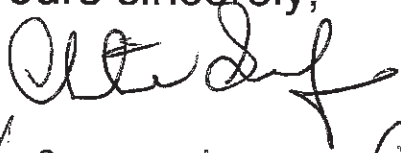
Permitting gambling at la Cucharacha would not raise the level of the neighborhood - it would, inevitably, lower it. A bad precedent would be set: one wonders what might come next: tattoo parlors, body-piercing salons? There are certain things that make a neighborhood finer; there are others that do nothing positive for it, just drag it in the opposite direction.

A recent article in Minnesota Magazine points out the consequences of an addiction to gambling. The article traces the story of a woman who lost her home,

several jobs, and eventually lost her family, all because of an addiction to gambling. Not all of the people who'd gamble at La Cucharacha would be compulsive gamblers - but some would be.

An outlet for gambling is not something we want in our neighborhood. In every way we can imagine, introducing gambling into the Summit-Dale area would negatively affect it. We ask you to deny La Cucharacha a gambling license.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Christine Graf)  
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