

From: [Colleen Langford](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#); [Colleen Langford](#)
Subject: billy"s on grand
Date: Friday, May 5, 2023 7:47:33 AM

My question is how did it ever become a bar that is opened until 1 or 2 am?
This is in the middle of a residential area..It has homes behind and in front of it.
It is not downtown or in a strip mall where people are trying to live their lives without
drunks shooting and urinating in front of their families.
Grand ave was a family and shopping destination in the past. I believe all the stores
that have left is
because of the unsafe conditions on Grand ave..that is because of Billy's.
I would love to see Billy's succeed but not at the risk of the community. First thing
would be
to close at 10 pm..nothing good happens after 10 and it would make the
neighborhood safer
and quieter. I think if they want to stay open to midnight they need to find a different
location.
They also need to curb the violence and behavior from the patrons..closing at 10
might
eliminate that problem.
We have lost 3/4 of the retailers on Grand ave please help us build that up again by
saying no to Billy's and making this a safe community again where families want to
come to.

I beg the city to help build our community again and help us feel safe.
Colleen Langford

Colleen Langford

RE/MAX Results

651-696-0879 / Office

651-271-7873 / Cellular

651-698-7686 / Fax

From: [Colleen Langford](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Re: billy"s on grand
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 8:37:28 AM

Greg..do you advise showing up?

After Sat. nights shooting in front of Billy's I think the city should shut the establishment down..I am not in favor of approving any liquor license for this business..it is destroying the safety of our neighborhood.

Although no human was harmed in the shooting on Sat night and it was Billy's property that was damaged it affects all of us..there does not need to be a killing or injury to threaten the neighborhood..thanks Greg

Colleen Langford

RE/MAX Results

651-696-0879 / Office

651-271-7873 / Cellular

651-698-7686 / Fax

From: [Angela Reasoner](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: BILLYS ON GRAND BUSINESS LICENSE
Date: Saturday, May 6, 2023 4:36:00 PM

Hello,

I would like to express my strong objection to the renewal of the business license for Billy's on Grand.

My objection is based on the business's consistent violation of the following license conditions:

5). I have never seen security and/or staff conducting sweeps across the parking lot to deter noise. Oftentimes, Billy's patrons remain in the parking lot long past closing hours, as late as 2:40am.

9). I have had to call the non-emergency line several times due to after hours noise generated by patrons from Billy's on Grand. The patrons that loiter in the parking lot play very loud music in their cars and speak at high volumes so as to disturb the neighborhood residents.

Thank you for considering my complaints.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Angela Reasoner
836 Grand Ave #2
St. Paul, MN 55105
651-206-4100

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Angela Reasoner](#)
To: [DCL@police.uscourts.gov](#)
Subject: BILLY'S ON GRAND SHOOTING-5/7/23
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 1:43:24 AM

Hello,

The shooting at Billy's on Grand the morning of 5/7/23 put a bullet hole through my porch window.



Thankfully, no one was hurt in my building, but this violence must be stopped.

Sincerely,

Angela Reasoner
836 Grand Ave #2
St. Paul, MN 55105

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Patrick Michaelis](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Response to License Application at 857 Grand Avenue in Saint Paul
Date: Sunday, May 7, 2023 2:57:53 PM

Dear Legislative Hearing Officer,

I am writing this letter as a neighbor in response to the license application by DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery & Bar, which has been operating as Billy's on Grand.

My wife and I moved next door to Billy's on Grand in August of 2022, and have nothing but negative feelings towards the establishment since arriving. We have lived in multiple major cities before Saint Paul and knew the potential of "bar noise" prior to signing our lease at our location. Needless to say, our experience living next to Billy's on Grand has been like nothing we have ever seen or experienced before and has reached well beyond your typical "bar noise".

My wife and I have called the police countless times since living here due to reckless firearm discharges, gun shots, domestic disputes, verbal altercations, reckless driving, patrons loitering beyond operating hours, patrons playing excessively loud music from their cars while they loiter, open drug usage, and witnessing public urination to name a few offenses.

If the city of Saint Paul communicated with the Saint Paul police department, the SPPD would be able to provide a sufficient amount of evidence to prove Billy's on Grand is an issue.

Billy's on Grand is bringing no value to this neighborhood and does not belong here. The amount of criminal activity and mischief has skyrocketed in this neighborhood since the new ownership group has taken over and community members do not feel safe in this neighborhood. The amount of police calls due to the patrons of Billy's on Grand should be enough evidence beyond measure that this business cannot go on as is. There has been evidence of an increase in gun violence in this neighborhood directly related to this establishment. The city of Saint Paul already knows what a nuisance and safety liability this business is causing. Accepting the liquor license for Billy's on Grand would be accepting this neighborhood to continue on a downward path. The police have been called hundreds of times in the past few years and this business has been allowed to stay open and carry on. Someone was shot and killed on Grand Avenue in August of 2020, directly related to individuals from Billy's on Grand.

When is enough enough? Do more people need to be hurt? Does someone else need to be shot?

Please let the neighborhood live in peace, and do not accept the continuation of a liquor license at 857 Grand Avenue.

As a last note, someone with an automatic firearm shot multiple rounds through the patio and front windows of Billy's on Grand last night, in the early hours of May 7th.

I am pleading with you to make this madness stop! I live here. I have witnessed, single handedly, day in and day out, better than anyone else, the dangerous and destructive behavior that is a result of the business at 857 Grand Avenue. This is a residential neighborhood that is

wreaking havoc on innocent community members. Please help.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patrick Michaelis
833 Grand Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55105

From: [James Vigliotti](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Please reconsider the liquor license application renewal for Billy's on Grand
Date: Sunday, May 7, 2023 5:55:45 PM

Hello.

Please consider denying the liquor license application renewal for Billy's on Grand. This business has had so many shootings that it is a major problem for the area.

James Vigliotti

Owner - Hacker Attackers LLC

Please excuse any typos as this was sent from a mobile device and likely dictated by voice.

From: [Griggs Nichols](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Noecker](#); info@summithillassociation.org; director@summithillassociation.org
Subject: More Gun Fire and the Application of LICENSE NUMBER 20230000453
Date: Sunday, May 7, 2023 6:08:10 PM

I'm writing this on Sunday afternoon after we were awoken (yet AGAIN) at 1:30am by another flurry of gun fire in front of 857 Grand, presently known as Billy's on Grand. Billy's front window was shot out and is currently covered with gray sheets of plywood. Luckily, yet again, no one was injured or killed. How much longer before Billy's and the city's luck runs out and the headline changes to injury or death?

This establishment and ownership CANNOT be allowed to continue to function in this manner. They CANNOT continue to be allowed to be a nuisance and blight on this otherwise upscale neighborhood. They CANNOT be allowed to stay open past midnight. They CANNOT continue to be permitted to have DJs or live bands/music. They have demonstrated numerous times in the last two years that their client base cannot behave as law abiding, civil people.

I was nearly struck down by a stray bullet last June from a probable customer of Billy's. I can't walk into my kitchen without pause, reflection, or memory (and sometimes fear) of that night.

I have owned a home here along Grand Avenue for twenty-four years. I have been a nearly life long Crocus Hill and Mac-Groveland resident. No more. I'm finished. I'm tired. I am now leaving Saint Paul strictly because of this establishment, how it continues to be run, and how the city seems to refuse or be able to take definitive action.

Fix this soon or the blood will be on your hands.

Respectfully,

Milton Griggs Nichols
612-790-7809

From: [Jack Dwyer](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: DWD Group LLC License
Date: Sunday, May 7, 2023 7:25:29 PM

Hi,

I live at 640 Laurel Ave, St Paul, MN and have concerns about the potential application for DWD Group.

For the past couple years, Billy's has had a concerning trend of violence and uncertainty around it. Weekend evening metal detectors and multiple occurrences of gun activity makes us not want to go to a place we've enjoyed eating and drinking at for a decade.

We will not be going back to the location as it makes our family feel unsafe, but we'd love to see a more responsible and accountable ownership to enjoy the food and drinks again.

Thanks,

-Jack Dwyer

From: [Dan Roth](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's Liquor License: Opposed
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 8:28:13 AM

Hello Licensing Dept-

I am writing to share my strong opposition to Billy's being granted a liquor license.

I have lived in the Summit- Hill neighborhood now for 28 years (I have lived in St. Paul for almost 53 years). I feel I have seen St. Paul at it's best and unfortunately at it worst. For many so years I felt safe at night frequenting the bars and restaurants on Grand Ave. Since Billy's changed ownership (twice now) I no longer feel that way.

I have personally witnessed patrons of Billy's exiting the bar at closing time fighting, discarding trash into the street, drunken belligerence, throwing things at passing cars, urinating, and yes unfortunately firing guns. Bullets have to land somewhere and lately they've been landing in local residents' homes. How long before an innocent adult or God forbid a child is killed by one of these bullets? I seems as though this is an awful game of Russian Roulette in which tax paying residents are being asked to risk their own lives each day. For what!? To sell beer?! Clearly the numerous warnings given to the Billy's management and it's patrons haven't been heard nor respected. I believe part of the reason that Billy's has had issues is that it is more of a night club than a bar. It's music and drink specials attract a nightclub seeking parton. That type of patron has no place in residential neighborhood. You can't name a residential neighborhood in the Twin Cities that has a night club in it. How one has found it's way into one of the nicest neighborhoods in beyond me but it needs to stop now.

Please don't grant Billy's a license. You have the power. I don't think that I'm being overly dramatic when I say lives depend on your decision.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dan Roth
Vox Creative | Founder
voxcreativeinc.com | 651.270.7667

From: [Barry Foy](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 10:10:24 AM

Regarding licensing of Billy's on Grand:

The Billy's experiment has clearly failed, regrettably for the people who backed it with their money and hard work. Now the City of St. Paul needs to stop wasting valuable human and financial resources, not to mention time and, last but certainly not least, the neighborhood's patience, in trying to revive it.

This process has been marked by numerous offenses and astonishments—Billy's makes sure there's always some new outrage to complain and worry about—and when planning to write this note I had assumed the latest one would be the situation described in a reader's letter to the *My Villager* newspaper on 19 April. Specifically, this letter told of the reader's family having to be *frisked* on entering Billy's after 9pm on a Sunday night.

The idea of undergoing frisking to enter an establishment in the Summit Hill neighborhood would be hilarious if it weren't utterly appalling and frightening. The ironic part is, I'm all for it: No one knows better than the Billy's folks whether their customers need frisking to maintain safety on the premises. But that's not the issue: The issue is this: *What on earth is a place like that, whose regular customers can apparently turn out at any time to be dangerous criminals, doing in this neighborhood?!?!* It's absurd, it's shocking, and it's deeply offensive...and how about dangerous? There is no place for any establishment with that profile on Grand Avenue, from Dale Street all the way to St. Thomas.

Whatever Billy's is doing to attract these patrons—and I have no idea what that might be—it has to stop, and we've been hammering away at this situation long enough to realize that the only way to make it stop is to take away their license to operate. Obviously, this is not an appealing, sustainable way for a mixed-use neighborhood to deal with its businesses, but enough is enough.

Like I said, I had assumed the frisking story would be the most recent outrage when I got around to writing this note, but in the meantime Billy's came up with another: Within the last 36 hours some clown stood in front of the place and fired shots into it; the police found bullet holes in the windows. (Note that the previous report of shot-up windows involved my neighbor's kitchen, on the *third floor*.) Were those shots fired by the people who own the bar? Of course not. But somehow this place consistently attracts this sort of miscreant. No other establishment in the neighborhood has operated as such a magnet for obnoxious and dangerous misbehavior.

This has gone on long enough. The idea of living in fear of my own neighborhood is totally unacceptable, and, whether it's true or not, the City is giving the impression that it's simply dawdling, reacting to some kind of vague pressure from some vague parties. Please stop wasting our time and yours, and revoke the operating licenses for Billy's on Grand.

Thank you for your time,

Barry Foy

Summit Hill, St. Paul
foodfoy@yahoo.com
phone 206-227-2758

From: [John Miller](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy"s on Grand
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 11:14:06 AM

I am NOT in favor of granting any form of license to the current owner/operators of Billy's on Grand.

John W. Miller, Jr.
706 Lincoln Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105
651-227-5410
Principal Bassoon, Minnesota Orchestra (Retired)
Adjunct Professor of Bassoon, University of Minnesota (Retired)
President, Minnesota Bassoon Association

From: [Patricia Brooks](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's license
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 12:48:17 PM

Hello

I'm a 40 year resident of Summit University. We have had numerous calls to police for disruptive incidents at this Grand Ave business. We can not continue to have Billy's frightening our community. It's been a great place to shop , enjoy dinner or just walk your dog. (Grand Ave.) This can not continue as crime is escalating. Every time it's happening we just pray no one is killed. Please vote against the Liscense you can help keep the neighborhood safe . Sincerely Patricia Brooks
644 Ashland
St Paul Mn 55104

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sandy Skilling](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 1:27:02 PM

Please do not renew the license for Billy's on Grand. My husband and I live on Lincoln Ave less than a block from Billy's. They have consistently ignored community safety concerns and should not be allowed to remain open. A number of their patrons actively break laws and cause our neighborhood to be unsafe at night.

Sincerely,
Sandra Skilling

From: [Wahlberg, Philip M](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Liquor License Application for DWD Group LLC, Gather Eatery & Bar
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 1:40:46 PM

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to voice my opposition to the renewal of the liquor license for the group operating at Billys On Grand located at 857 Grand Avenue in St. Paul. After yet another incident of gunfire related to the establishment I found myself walking by several times in the past two days wishing I felt safe to visit the business establishments that are just blocks from my home. After gun violence took yet another life in St. Paul this past weekend we must do everything we can to help put a stop to the opportunities, and Billy's on Grand has proven to be one of those locations providing opportunities. There is not one answer or solution, but a series of steps need to be taken and this is one of them.

I'm also a Real Estate Agent that focuses a majority of my business in St. Paul. You should know that I've have heard first hand from people, just over the past few weeks, of their concerns in the City. I have clients relocating from other states that are choosing locations other than St. Paul when St. Paul was their first choice. Violence and Crime concerns are one of the items high on their list.

Thank you from a concerned neighbor, business owner and taxpayer of this city.

Philip M. Wahlberg

REALTOR®
Wahlberg & Toohey Group
Manager Associate | Crocus Hill Office
Coldwell Banker Realty

[651.336.2410](tel:651.336.2410) Cell

***Wire Fraud is Real*. Before wiring any money, call the intended recipient at a number you know is valid to confirm the instructions.** Additionally, please note that the sender does not have authority to bind a party to a real estate contract via written or verbal communication.

From: [Lyn Bartholomay](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:25:32 PM

Good Afternoon,

Truly something needs to be done with Billy's way to much violence, guns, drugs, loitering, fights.

I highly doubt anything will be done but I thought I would email my concerns.

Lyn Bartholomay

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mary M Finley](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:32:01 PM

Please deny this entity a liquor license...They are not willing to promote safety for their clientele and/or the family oriented neighborhood they exist in...Shut them down...they add only trouble to the neighborhood, zero benefit.

Mary M Finley
Lex-Ham neighbor.
Sent from my iPad

From: [*CI-StPaul_CC-Ward6](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: FW: Billy's on Grand - Liquor License
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:44:29 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

From: James Hardy <JHardy@atticusadmin.com>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 1:56 PM
To: Rebecca Noecker <Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Russel Balenger <Russel.Balenger@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Mitra Jalali <Mitra.Jalali@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Amy Brendmoen <amy.brendmoen@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Nelsie Yang <Nelsie.Yang@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Jane Prince <Jane.Prince@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Charles Graupman <charles.graupman@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Eric Hudak <Eric.Hudak@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Billy's on Grand - Liquor License

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

To: Rebecca Noecker, Ward 2

Copy to: Russel Balenger, Ward 1
Chris Tolbert, Ward 3
Mitra Jalali, Ward 4
Amy Brendmoen, Ward 5 and Council President
Nelsie Yang, Ward 6
Jane L. Prince, Ward 7

Sergeant Charles Graupman, DSI-Vice/HT
Eric Hudak, Licensing Manager (DSI)

Dear Councilmember Noecker:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed liquor license for Billy's on Grand ("Billy's"). I am asking that you vote against granting Billy's a liquor license.

I am a long-term St. Paul resident. My wife and I have owned our property at 796 Summit Avenue since July 1996. I've been a St. Paul resident since 1987.

As you are likely aware, there was another incident involving the actual property of Billy's overnight Saturday (actually, approximately 1:25am on Sunday, May 7th) where shots/bullets were fired into/at Billy's. I am a nearby neighbor (one block away) and heard between sixteen and twenty gun shots.

This latest incident comes only four weeks after an exchange of gunfire occurred directly in front of my property (corner of Summit Avenue and Avon Street, FORTY FEET FROM MY FRONT DOOR) on Friday, April 7th. That exchange (estimated at as many as forty shots) resulted in a bullet going through the bedroom window of my neighbor's home.

When discussing the April 7th incident with the owner/managers of Billy's on Grand, they pushed-back

that the incident had anything to do with their establishment. While this defense of their establishment in the April 7th incident cannot be refuted; the correlation of gun related incidents, at/around bar closing time, in very close proximity to Billy's cannot be dismissed. Law enforcement officials that we (neighboring residents) spoke to following this April incident essentially said the same, that while there's certainly dramatic increases in gun related incidents nearby the Billy's property – typically at/round bar close, the April 7th incident could not be directly attributed to Billy's.

The incident from early morning May 7th is absolute proof that Billy's and Billy's patrons (albeit – a very small percentage of the patrons) – are a significant (if not the primary) source to the escalated gun related incidents that occur at/around bar close time in this one-block area.

Past incidents (gunfire related and other violence) attributed to Billy's (while under the group applying for the liquor license) are a matter of public record. These past incidents, combined with the two incidents in the past month, cannot continue to be tolerated by the civic leaders of St. Paul.

Again, please vote against granting Billy's a liquor license.

Respectfully,

Jim Hardy
796 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

James B. Hardy, CPA (Inactive) CFO COO

Atticus Administration, LLC

1250 Northland Drive Suite 240 Mendota Heights MN 55120

Direct: 612-299-1800

Cell: 651-233-4421

Email: jhardy@atticusadmin.com

www.atticusadmin.com



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From: [Kayla Carrigan](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand Liquor License
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:46:41 PM

As a citizen of St. Paul, I'm disturbed to hear that there have been not just one, multiple incidents involving guns, violence, and just disturbances surrounding Billy's on Grand. There have been too many incidents and the business isn't taking security and their responsibility as a business seriously. There have been too many shootings and other incidents, so I would like for the liquor license to not be renewed in the interest of community safety.

There should not be any such incidents associated with a neighborhood business without consequences to the owners, who are creating a venue for criminal behavior in our city. Please revoke the license of Billy's on Grand for now and work to find a more positive use of the premises that supports the neighborhood and doesn't compromise safety.

Sincerely,

Kayla Carrigan
724 Simon Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55117
320-224-3580

From: [Kristin Koziol](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Fw: Billy's on Grand
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 3:15:17 PM

Kristin Koziol | Executive Assistant to Councilmember Russel Balenger

Pronouns: she/her

P: 651-266-8613

E: kristin.koziol@ci.stpaul.mn.us

From: Joel Nagel <joel.d.nagel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 02:57 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Billy's on Grand

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

It needs to be shut down. Enough is enough. Someone will surely die there this summer if it isn't.

Joel Nagel
610 Laurel Ave, St Paul, MN 55102

From: [Jacob Olivieri](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Jake Olivieri - Statement on Billy's on Grand
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 3:33:09 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider the statement in this email. My name is Jake Olivieri, I have been living on Grand Avenue for over two years now, right across the street from Billy's on Grand.

Since moving into my apartment, I have had to deal with loud music, witnessing clearly intoxicated individuals leave Billy's and drive, and most importantly I **have had to deal with repeated gun violence.**

I live in a first floor apartment, with my bedroom looking out onto the street. This last Saturday night, I had to lay on the ground of my bedroom after I heard repeated gun shots right outside. Thankfully, I guess for my sake, the shots were going away from my apartment this time.

I've had to, again, call 911 on this establishment while also hoping that no bullets flew through my window and either strick me or my pets. I see from my neighbors, that they are not so lucky and have had windows shot out or near misses in their own homes. How long, until a by-stander gets struck? All because the city refuses to take swift action against a poorly run establishment.

Enough is enough, this bar has had its 3 strikes, and then some. I am sick and tired of fearing that my apartment, or one of my neighbors apartments, is going to be struck. This is an unsafe establishment, and the data clearly shows that the new ownership is not taking responsibility for the actions of their patrons.

These types of incidents do not happen nearly as frequently, if at all, at any other location on Grand Avenue or in the surrounding neighborhood.

I should not have to fear for my safety, due to one location, **in my own home.**

If this were occuring at other establishments, or locations, it would be shut down. The bar is a repeat offender, and the danger that it poses is clear and obvious to the public.

I am so tired of speaking to the police when they show up after a gun has been shot off, time and time again. I beg that you do not renew this location's liquor license, and work towards shutting this establishment down.

Thank you for taking the time and consideration to read my statement.

Best,

Jake Olivieri
jake.olivieri93@gmail.com
715-220-5417

[LinkedIn](#)

From: [Michaela Toohey](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Objection for liquor license for Billy's on Grand - DWD Group
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 3:41:57 PM

Dear Hearing Officer -

I am writing to express my concern regarding the liquor license application for the DWD Group, the current operators of Billy's on Grand. I urge you to deny their license request.

My office is located just down the street from Billy's at 821 Grand Ave, and I live 5 blocks from Billy's on Fairmount Avenue & Milton Street.

While dealing with occasional noise or nuisance from restaurants and bars is part of city living, the situation at Billy's has proven to be far more extreme than any other neighborhood establishment. I am very concerned about the gun incidents outside of Billy's and the management's failure to cooperate with police on at least one police call. The latest incident was just a few days ago when bullets were fired outside Billy's, striking the restaurant. This is the latest in a string of shooting incidents, including a fatal shooting last year. This is unacceptable and the city should not allow DWD to continue to operate Billy's with a liquor license since they are not prioritizing the safety of their patrons, staff, or neighbors.

Sincerely,
Michaela Toohey
651-253-6830

From: [Timothy Paradise](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy"s on Grand
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 12:58:09 PM

Hello,

At 1:30 a.m. Sunday morning I was awakened by approx. 8 rapid fire gunshots that sounded like they came from north of us on Grand Avenue.

Were those shots reported by other people, and if so did the shots emanate from the area around Billy's Bar?

We have been subjected to the sound of a gunfight between two shooters with automatic weapons last summer in that area, as well as other incidents of gunfire from north of us where we live on Goodrich Avenue.

In warn weather we are constantly subjected to clouds of barbeque cooking smoke that issue from that august establishment.

A woman was beaten up in plain sight at Victorian Crossing late at night last summer when Billy's was the only business open at that time.

That and any other establishment in the area which attracts violent people fueled by alcohol should not be allowed to operate in this residential neighborhood.

Let them go out to a strip mall somewhere.

Thank you,
Timothy Paradise

From: [Timothy Paradise](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Re: Billy"s on Grand
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 4:15:09 PM

Mr. Weiner,

There is no way I would appear in person with a complaint about that business. I am not tha naive about human nature.

If that is a prerequisite, then please just forget about my complaint and let the gunshots keep happening.

Timothy Paradise

> On May 8, 2023, at 12:59 PM, *CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing <LH-Licensing@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

>

> This email is to acknowledge that your objection to the license application for DWD Group LLC, dba Gather Eatery & Bar, 857 Grand Ave, has been received and added to the record. Your objection will require an in-person hearing to allow concerned residents, the applicant, and other interested parties to share their perspective. Please be aware that the closing date ends on May 19, 2023, and the hearing will tentatively take place after that on June 1 at 2pm. Final confirmation with be sent on the closing date. Please see attachments for additional information.

>

> Thanks in advance for raising your concern and please communicate directly with me regarding questions about the process and how you can participate.

>

> Greg Weiner

> Executive Assistant – Licensing Hearings

> Saint Paul City Council

> Greg.Weiner@ci.stpaul.mn.us

> 651-266-8512

> He/him/his

>

> Thank you,
> Timothy Paradise

>
>

> <Gather Eatery & Bar - Notice to interested parties.docx><Class N Notification.pdf>

From: [Dawson Cooper](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 4:59:49 PM

I strongly object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Please, take action based on the evidence that has accumulated over the course of the past three years. It is clear that what has been done in the past (e.g. fines) is not sufficient and the neighborhood has continued to suffer because of it.

Sincerely,

A resident from Avon Street South

From: [Brian Gleeson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billys on Grand
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 5:10:26 PM

To Whom It May Concern.. Billys on Grand has become a disgrace to my neighborhood and is hurting local businesses and discouraging future development. It is mind boggling to me that a business that repeatedly attracts violence, drugs and general lawlessness can be given an extension to its liquor license. How many more shootings will it take to get the point across. Billy's is a disaster. I speak for dozens of residents that live and work in the area... We do not support Billy's continued operation.

Thank You,
Brian Gleeson

From: [Jim Kelly](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 7:07:47 PM

I live at 749 summit avenue. Within earshot of Gather. Having to hear gunshots at least 5-6 times a year, one block from my house - all because one bar had turned into a drug infested, drug dealing gang hangout, is, in my opinion, unacceptable as a resident of Saint Paul. We can do better. I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Please free up this space for a law abiding business to move in that ADDS to our city - instead of detracting from it.

Thank you.

Jim Kelly
749 summit
651-260-8740

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ty Silberhorn](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand Liquor License
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 7:12:05 PM

To: Legislative Hearing Officer

We are writing to OPPOSE the renewal of the liquor license for Billy's on Grand (857 Grand Avenue St. Paul).

We live 1.5 blocks from this establishment and have continued to see a deterioration of the environment in and around this bar. It is clear to those that live near that they are attracting a clientele that seems predisposed to bad behavior: fighting, shootings, yelling, throwing things and public intoxication. The shooting incidents in particular only seem to be getting worse.

We frequent many of the establishments on Grand Avenue and have not been in this establishment in over two years due to the bad environment. Most of our neighbors have echoed the same.

The city would be doing this neighborhood, and our police force, a major disservice by allowing this establishment to continue at all, let alone continue to serve alcohol.

Thank you,

Ty and Susan Silberhorn
789 Lincoln Avenue
Saint Paul, MN
651-399-0774

Ty Silberhorn
tysilberhorn@comcast.net
+1-651-399-0774

From: [AJ Busch](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 7:17:20 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

From: [MARK FOSTER](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 7:22:33 PM

To Legislative Hearing Officer:

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

The establishment has become a danger to the neighborhood. I live just two blocks from it.

Thank you.

Mark Foster
612-751-1454

From: [Stephen Mandel](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 7:37:19 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [T.J. McLeod](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License #20230000453
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 7:39:22 PM

Hello,

I am writing in regard to the application #20230000453 for a Liquor On Sale for the DWD Group LLC, Dba Gather Eatery & Bar.

I live across the alley from this establishment at 818 Summit Ave, St Paul, MN 55105. I am vehemently opposed to issuing this establishment any liquor license or business license at all. We have been living in a war zone since they took ownership. There are non-stop fights in the alley and on our streets nearby and out front, but worse yet we have experienced at least 20 TWENTY separate shooting events over the past 12 months that have resulted in deaths and injuries.

The patrons of this establishment roll out onto the street after drinking and get into extremely dangerous and serious confrontations. Two nights ago 8 gunshots were fired right in front of our garage. And One week ago 45...FORTY FIVE....gun shots were fired right in front of our house after the patrons left that bar. One of the stray bullets went through my next door neighbor's window and is still lodged in the frame.

Allowing this to go unchecked is the most reckless governing decision I have ever seen in my 54 years living in this St Paul neighborhood. My wife, kids and I are all absolutely fed up with the hoodlums this bar lets in every evening and serves liquor to all night long. I CHALLENGE any person deciding this case to come to our neighborhood at bar closing any weekend night and visit this establishment to see what the hell all the neighbors are living through.

So I say congratulations, my wife now wants to list our house for sale and leave this neighborhood we have loved. Expect a 'for sale' to hit our front yard within 12 months if this establishment continues to operate. They have absolutely ruined this neighborhood and contributed ZERO to its neighbors.

I would welcome a call, zoom meeting, or in person meeting to provide further insight on the fear we live in every evening. I have very little faith this committee will actually SERVE this community of local families by shutting this place down, though I still hope for the best. Billy's bar is a dangerous establishment full of criminals that now own our streets.

Regards,

- T.J. McLeod

(c) 612-306-7030

[LinkedIn](#)

From: [Marit Lee Kucera](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: I oppose the license application of Billy's on Grand
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 7:39:30 PM

Dear Legislative Hearing Officer:

Please accept as my comments on Billy's license application this email that I sent earlier today to my Ward 2 council member, Rebecca Noecker, and to all Saint Paul city council members, plus to my neighborhood group (SAGGS), stating my opposition to a Liquor License for Billy's on Grand.

At this point

To: rebecca.noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Cc: amy.brendmoen@ci.stpaul.mn.us, chris.tolbert@ci.stpaul.mn.us, jane.prince@ci.stpaul.mn.us, mitra.nelson@ci.stpaul.mn.us, nelsie.yang@ci.stpaul.mn.us, russel.balenger@ci.stpaul.mn.us, "saggs@googlegroups.com" <saggs@googlegroups.com>
8:56 a.m., Monday May 8, 2023

Dear Rebecca,

I join my neighbors in asking you to vote against granting Billy's on Grand a liquor license. As you know, shots were fired in the early morning of 5/7/2023; officers reported bullet holes in the windows at the bar. Luckily, according to initial reports, there were no injuries, but there was property damage. Patrons of Billy's seem to feel welcome to have, carry, and fire guns. As a long-time resident of Saint Paul, I do not welcome patrons with guns on Grand or anywhere in Saint Paul.

I also ask you and all your St. Paul City Council colleagues to look seriously at the disconnect between the current efforts to make Grand "grand" again, which include the many new businesses opening on Grand, plus the construction of new apartments, with the many (too many!) incidents of gun violence at 857 Grand.

Thank you for your service to Saint Paul.

Respectfully, one of your constituents,
Marit Lee Kucera
30 Saint Albans South
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105
651-222-2483

From: [MICHAEL BUSCH](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 7:46:12 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Enough is enough! I live on the 800 block of Portland, 2 blocks from Billy's, and I'm tired of all the weekend gunshots and the lack of leadership from the city! I can't go for walks in my neighborhood at night or even sit on my porch after dark. My neighbor even had to move his daughter's bedroom from the front of the house, which faces Billy's, to the back. How ridiculous is that?!!

Michael Busch
819 Portland

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: danecohen@comcast.net
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 8:22:42 PM

Hello,

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

The entire neighborhood is at significant and grave risk by allowing Billy's on Grand to continue operating. The amount of crime and violence stemming from this one establishment is shocking and disturbing. What's more disturbing, is the city's lack of action despite years of consistent gunfire, fights, and violence.

I urge the city to take immediate action before an innocent life is lost.

Dan Cohen
612-209-1571
800 block of Lincoln Ave.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [jan delong](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy"s on Grand License application
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 8:35:58 PM

I strongly oppose the license request of Billy's on Grand. Again, just a couple of days ago, guns were used and some bullets went through the windows of Billy's. Interesting how the incidences are not being reported by the press anymore.

This has been a chronic problem for our neighborhood.

From: [Louis Pissios](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's On Grand
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 9:00:34 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to application #20230000453 for liquor on sale for the DWD group LLC Gather eatery & bar. (Billy's)

This bar has caused nothing but mayhem for Grand Ave in the last few years. We strongly oppose granting this liquor license. Once upon a time years ago this establishment was a safe place. It is no longer. Often right after the bar let's out gunfire erupts sometimes in multiple directions.

I've personally found 9MM rounds in the alley behind 814 Grand Ave that were missed by investigators after just such an incident. As both a former resident and business operator I implore you to consider the well-being of this neighborhood.

Best Regards,

Louis

--

Recovery Homes of MN
Louis M. Pissios, CPRS
Program Manager
C: (847)977-1597
Louis@recoveryhomesofmn.com
www.recoveryhomesmn.com

NOTICE: This communication may contain protected health information, the release of which is restricted by federal law. Any information about a client or clients has been disclosed to you from records protected by federal confidentiality rules governing federally-assisted drug or alcohol abuse programs (42 C.F.R., Part 2) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). The federal rules prohibit you from making any further disclosure of this information unless further disclosure is expressly permitted by the written consent of the person to whom it pertains or as otherwise permitted by 42 C.F.R, Part 2, and HIPAA. A general authorization is NOT sufficient for this purpose.

The federal rules restrict any use of the information to criminally investigate or prosecute any alcohol or drug abuse client. Any unauthorized redisclosure of the information contained in this communication may be punishable under federal statutes.

From: [Karrie Knutson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 9:46:12 PM

I live in the Crocus Hill neighborhood on Goodrich Ave and I extremely frustrated that we have to put up with the repeated gun violence from the patrons at Billy's on Grand. Numerous properties on Grand have had their windows shot from stray bullets. There already has been one death at Billy's on Grand how many more people need to die before you revoke their liquor license?

As a home owner we like local restaurants like the Iron Ranger on Grand or Grand Tavern where we feel safe patronizing.

It is really concerning that if something happened to a family member and I had to go to the hospital late at night I need to drive past Billy's on Grand and could get caught in gunfire. Gunfire last summer occurred at Billy's several times a month.

Why do the police have to keep dealing with gunfire issues for over 2 years now? Why would you allow an organization like Billy's to keep their liquor licence? For the safety of our neighborhood take their liquor license away!

From: [Karl Benson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Concerned neighbor
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 9:47:03 PM

To whom it may concern

The Billy's liquor license is up for renewal. I certainly hope the review board takes a long, hard look at this application

How much gunfire is acceptable?

How many actions of violence are acceptable?

How many incidents of drunk driving, drug dealing and public intoxication are acceptable?

From a family living in the community, I would say that Billy's has far and away ruined any acceptable standard for responsibility and consideration

Past action attempting to limit their recklessness have proven to be cool hardy Please use this renewal to deny their application.

Benson Family
Osceola ave
Saint Paul

Sent from my phone. Big fingers, small keyboard, failing eyesight....

From: [j.c](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 10:56:09 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

This place has been causing me and my family countless nights of zero sleep from gunfire, cars racing and people fighting!

Needs to stop ASAP! Over it!!!!

From: [Danette Wilson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 7:02:25 AM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Danette Andley
761 Lincoln Ave
314-265-0004

From: [Chris Arlandson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 7:33:44 AM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

The decline at Billy's has been profound, and it is currently not safe. Police calls to Billy's are commonplace, and gunfire has occurred several times. The neighborhood is in fear, and further tragedy will occur if action is not taken.

Regards,

Chris Arlandson, P.E.
SmartLine Design LLC
804 Lincoln Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105
612-990-0266

From: [Diana Spurgeon](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Liquor license for Billy's on Grand
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:39:48 AM

I am a resident of the Mac Groveland neighborhood and am deeply concerned about the crime, especially violent crime, associated with Billy's bar/restaurant on Grand Av and their pending liquor license renewal application. I would strongly urge you to deny any renewal applications, or requests to extend the hours alcohol is allowed to be served, until the crime associated with this business has significantly decreased.

Concerned,

Diana Spurgeon

From: [Andrew Voss](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Cc: [Sarah Kalhorn](#); [Melinda Voss](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:53:07 AM

I'm upset and disturbed by the continued and multiple shootings in my neighborhood in and around Billy's.

I understand that there are many considerations, rights and conflicting concerns to weigh.

Above all those considerations is my concern for the personal safety of my family and my children.

These shootings leave us feeling far less safe in our own neighborhood.

As such:

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Andrew Voss
721 Lincoln Avenue
612.562.1176

From: [Maria R. Stitzel](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: PLEASE DO NOT RENEW BILLY'S ON GRAND LIQUOR LICENSE
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9:04:13 AM

As a neighbor with children, I am BEGGING you PLEASE do not renew the liquor license at this establishment. Repeated violence including gun shots and fighting- what else do you need? For the safety of our community, please do NOT renew.

Thank you for taking responsible action,

Maria

From: [Jason Smith](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9:04:16 AM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

I work behind Billy's Bar and Grill and do overnights. I have heard multiple shootings there which can be scary. The first time I was taking out the trash at or around 1 am. All the sudden I hear 3-4 shots. I run walk briskly into my building to ensure the doors are locked. For all I know it could be an active shooter. Within seconds of locking the door, there was automatic (machine gun) fire likely from a Glock pistol with what is known as a switch. Highly illegal yet pretty common as it can be 3d printed. There have been others as well. I have heard four different shootings within 50 feet of where I'm working within the last couple of years. Last Saturday I was working with a client and I heard gun shots. The client thought it was fireworks but I knew better. I said that's coming from Billy's right behind us. They have had multiple shootings. I wish I was crazy but I was right. There is no legitimate reason why a bar that has been tied to that much gun violence should be open. Something really bad is going to happen. Do not let blood be on your hands.

Jason Smith
3034833485

Sent from my iPhone

From: 6513413873@vzwpix.com
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 7:53:10 PM
Attachments: [text_0.txt](#)

I am opposed to the renewal of the license of Billy's™s on Grand. We live less than two blocks away, and we have been awakened by gunfire coming from that location. We raised our kids here, we want others to feel they can raise their children safely in this neighborhood.

Sally Foster
651-341-3873

From: [Lisa Brienzo](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9:43:47 AM

I have lived in this Grand Ave neighborhood for 30 years. Billy's has become a bad actor which negatively impacts businesses and residents. How many police reports involving Billy's is considered acceptable? Do we just accept the fact that Grand & Victoria now a dangerous area after dark due in large part to Billy's practices that enable out of control, violent behavior. Billy's should not be granted a liquor license renewal.

Lisa Brienzo
711 Portland Ave
St Paul

From: [Denise Bradley](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's license renewal
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9:45:14 AM

Please do not renewal Billy's license. They have caused so much crime with their customers. Please make our neighborhood safe again.

Denise Bradley
821 Osceola Avenue

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [John Barker](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:01:28 AM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jon Reynolds](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy"s on Grand license
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:01:29 AM

Hi there, I'm writing to share my two cents on Billy's liquor license renewal. I live in the neighborhood and from what I can tell, the bar has been a magnet for public disturbances. I have not heard anything from the owners, so I have no reason to believe that conditions will improve. Given their history and lack of meaningful action I hope their license is not renewed.

Private businesses have a responsibility to be good neighbors. They are members of our community. All evidence shows that the current owners do not take this crime trend seriously and they've had several years to adjust course. It's time for change.

Thanks for reading.

--

Jon

From: [Marti Estey](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Opposition to Billy's liquor liscense.
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:17:04 AM

I am writing in regard to the application #20230000453 for a Liquor On Sale for the DWD Group LLC, DbA Gather Eatery & Bar (Billy's Bar)

I am sad to write this. As a small business owner, myself, I always try to support local small establishments. Billy's does not deserve our support or patronage currently. They are managing the problems with their clientele in a hands-off manor that is only in support of the bottom line. The neighborhood is more dangerous because of their lack of control over clientele and their choice to continue to serve liquor to people who have been overserved.

Billy's application should be denied. Our neighborhood is a quiet place where people need to put their kids to sleep and be able to go to bed themselves so we can all get up and work the next day. We don't need to be hearing gun shots at all hours of the day and night from people who have been drinking at Billy's. This needs to stop before anything worse happens.

Marti Estey

MARTI ESTEY

Reidell-Estey & Associates

748 Grand Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Cell: 651-442-9353 | marti@reidellestey.com

www.reidellestey.com

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From: [Timothy Doherty](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billys On Grand
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 12:14:32 PM

Hello,

It is my understanding that the liquor license renewal for Billy's On Grand is coming up in the next few days for a vote. If that is correct, I hope that the city votes down the renewal for their liquor license. Billy's on grand should close and a new ownership and new type of business should be there.

Tim Doherty
402 Laurel Avenue

From: [Stephanie Lessard](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 12:17:47 PM

As a member of this community, I would request that the liquor license not be renewed for Billy's. There have been nothing but problems with this establishment that have caused safety concerns for our neighborhood. We should not need to worry about drugs, gunshots and other types of violence that happens there on a regular basis.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Anne Halvorson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billys on Grand License
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:40:15 PM

Hello. I'm emailing about Billy's on Grand. I live in the area and have small children. I'm very concerned about the ongoing gun violence / fights that are associated with Billys and realize the new owners have implemented some measures to mitigate this...but that I'm still reading and hearing about gun shots going off in the area frequently. It's scary.

Billy's sits on a commercial street (Grand Ave) but in the heart of a pretty quiet, sleepy residential neighborhood where it seems most other bars and restaurants around us close between 9 and 12 at the very latest.

I support the business staying open and having a liquor license (it is a bar, after all) but **I do not support it serving liquor after 11 or 12 and after food is being served.** It is apparent to me that the cost to the community of this establishment staying open later (past midnight) for the sole purpose of selling liquor is not safe (multiple bullet holes in neighboring buildings, guns being fired). While I don't put this on Billys or their owners/management, I think it's an issue of the type of establishment that is in the proximity of a residential neighborhood. I believe this is a street for eating, dining and having a nice night out which can absolutely involve drinking. But it's not a street to go out and drink late night—that's what downtown is for.

Thank you,
Anne Halvorson
886 Fairmount Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105

From: [chrismurray72](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:51:05 PM

Hello,

I live in the Summit Hill neighborhood and have been a lifelong resident of St. Paul. While I always want to encourage small businesses to succeed in the area, I am opposed to Billy's on Grand getting a renewal of their alcohol license. Since the new owners have taken over the business, there has been nothing but trouble there with violent crimes including multiple shootings. I went into Billy's for a few minutes last year and people were smoking cigarettes and Marijuana inside and having no concerns doing so. Obviously, this business has no regard for the law.

I would encourage you to deny the request for a liquor license at Billy's.

Chris Murray
651-238-7118

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

From: [Jeanne Wikstrom](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Crime on Grand Ave
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:53:18 PM

I have heard that there was another early morning shooting on Grand Ave this past weekend. I am wondering if the restaurant/bar that was the crime scene should be closing earlier, more in line with the other restaurants in the surrounding blocks?

I appreciate having a variety of shops and restaurants within walking distance, but if they are attracting crime it negates the benefits.

Please take whatever action is prudent.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Jeanne Wikstrom

801 Goodrich Ave

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Andy Jewell](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand Licence Renewal
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 3:07:08 PM

I own the apartment building across the street from Billy's, 824 Grand Ave. I have owned it since the mid 1990's. I also live within a few blocks of this establishment. We have lived peacefully with Billy's for many years. I have always been patient with the noise and garbage that patrons make and spread across the neighborhood. Within the last few years and the change to the late bar closing time there has been a huge change in the behavior of the clientele. Gone are the days of just loud, inebriated patrons at closing and in it's place, in my opinion we find large armed groups intent on doing harm. I would urge the board to reconsider renewing Billy's license or at lease consider an earlier closing time. I am a big fan of restaurants and bars in our neighborhood but at some point we have to draw the line and say enough is enough.

Thank You,
Andrew Jewell

From: [Kim Wilczyk](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 3:07:44 PM

It's time to address the incidents at Billy's on Grand. I don't live in the area, however, there seems to be some very disturbing and dangerous behaviors reported at this establishment. It's time to reassess their privilege of having a liquor license. The proprietors of Billy's are either ignoring what is going on or they just don't care. If someone gets injured or worse, I believe they would be liable especially given the history of the things that go on. Please give a lot of thought before renewing their liquor license and listen to the citizens who live in that area. Thank you.

From: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: FW: Shared Voicemail (DSI-8989-Information Main Line)
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 3:44:02 PM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

From: JACKIE HARTMAN <+16517075144>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9:49 AM
To: VM-DSI-InformationComplaint <VM-DSI-InformationComplaint@stpaulmn.onmicrosoft.com>
Subject: Shared Voicemail (DSI-8989-Information Main Line)

Hi, this is Jackie Hartman and I live on Goodrich Ave. in Saint Paul. I'm a long term resident. I'm calling for two reasons. My phone number is 651-707-5144 and I will appreciate a return call. I'm calling to wonder or to learn more about what the City of Saint Paul is doing about the violence and especially the young father that was killed recently trying to prevent somebody from stealing a car. That's one thing I'm calling about and the other is I'm calling to request that the city do not does not renew Billy's on Grand's liquor license and I am a neighbor of this establishment and no longer able to support the activities that are happening with that business. So 651-707-5144 and I will look forward to your return call. Thanks. Bye.

You received a voice mail from [JACKIE HARTMAN](#).

From: [JEAN GESKE](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's license renewal
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 5:04:47 PM

I don't believe it is in the best interest of St Paul Community to renew the liquor license at Billy's. They have not shown nor do they care about the safety of our community. This place has brought more crime into our community. Please do not renew

Jean

From: [Bernice Ward](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy,s License Renewal
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 5:47:20 PM

Sent from my iPad

I am OPPOSED to the renewal of Billy's (on Grand.Avenue) license. They are a scourge on the neighborhood where I live.

From: [Eve Blackwell](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Cc: [jeanmom51@gmail.com](#); [kevindad51@gmail.com](#); [babaloney@gmail.com](#); [gabriel.broner@gmail.com](#); [bkarls58@gmail.com](#); [peter@stylefish.com](#); [janis.hollenbeck@gmail.com](#); [lundjonr@gmail.com](#); [foodfoyl@yahoo.com](#); [tomdonaghy@gmail.com](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand: Comment from Residents
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 5:57:45 PM

Re: Billy's On Grand Request for License Renewal
From: Thomas J. Donaghy, Eve J. Blackwell
63 South Avon St. Unit 33
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Regarding Billy's Request for License Renewal:
Sunday May 7, 2023 around 1:30 a.m., we reported hearing what sounded like an A-15 assault rifle being fired on Grand Avenue.

We have lived in our condo for 26 years and despite minor annoyances, we have never seen anything like the violence, bullets, disrespect for the law, and just plain danger that occurs most evenings at Billy's on Grand.

This is since the new owners/manager acquired the property.

Grand Avenue, Summit Avenue, and Crocus Hill have long been a sanctuary not only for residents, but also for others. Visitors of all races, incomes and backgrounds, people from all over the state and the country, used to enjoy evenings in this neighborhood. Small, friendly shops and cafes flourished. Now, the Grand/Victoria area is often deserted after 9 p.m.

Except, of course, for Billy's on Grand.

In our time here, this wonderful neighborhood used to offer respite at a time when it has never been more needed.

However, the record shows that present ownership of Billy's is attracting people of criminal intent.

Question: Why did staff refuse entrance to the business after reporting a fight?
Is there something going on that the business is trying to hide?

The killing, violence and especially gunshots have threatened people's safety and possibly their lives. Too many nights, over served people wander down Grand avenue with guns in their pockets, and use them. As the record shows, it has become all too common to hear gunshots waking residents from their sleep, and BEING FIRED INTO BUSINESSES AND RESIDENCES . This situation is extremely harmful, unfair, an TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE for residents, law-abiding visitors, plus businesses who are losing patrons because of this, and are already struggling since Covid and the 2020 burnings.

As our voting records show, businesses and homeowners in this area overwhelmingly support equality and justice, and have voted to elect competent public officials regardless of gender, race, age, or any other "ism.". And we welcome ALL visitors of positive intent to come and share our neighborhood.

So the only concern we have is for the SAFETY of all.

QUESTION: Grand Avenue and Summit Hill residents and businesses pay taxes. How would the city fare if this situation went unchanged, and droves of law-abiding tax-paying citizens/businesses moved away, reducing property values and attracting more people of criminal intent?

The above problem is a matter of public record. Despite changes and promises, recent events prove the situation is getting worse. We urge you to stop allowing this

hostile environment, in the interest of public safety, once and for all.

Eve J. Blackwell
Thomas J. Donaghy
63 South Avon Street, Unit 33

From: [Sherelyn Ogden](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:15:22 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

I object to the license application. I live near Billy's and their clientele frightens me — signs of gun use have been found.

Sherelyn Ogden

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lori Brostrom](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#); [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Noecker](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand--Sound Level Variance and Licensing Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 10:54:27 PM

I am copying below an email I sent to Councilmember Noecker on April 3:

Dear Councilmember Noecker;

I'm writing to express my concern regarding the license that Billy's on Grand has applied for. based upon the license application specifics, as published on the ENS dated 3/24. Most concerning to me are:

- A closing time of 1 am. This is inappropriate for a bar in a primarily residential neighborhood, as the past issues associated with Billy's has proven. There is no reason that this is warranted in an area that is not an entertainment district and where most surrounding businesses close much earlier. In terms of establishments serving liquor, the nearest ones are Salut (closing at 10 pm on weekends) and Red Rabbit (closing at 11 pm on weekends). Until Billy's is able to demonstrate that they can run a compliant business and exercise appropriate controls over their patrons, a similar closing time would be a good starting point.*
- Liquor service on their patio. As above, this should be even more sharply curtailed, given some of the behaviors that have been witnessed there, and the noise potentially generated by raucous patrons, as witnessed in the past.*
- Entertainment. As above. The existence of entertainment speaks to a clientele which is there to drink, rather than to dine. The crowds potentially attracted by this, the noise that would certainly be generated, and again, the previous issues related to this, speak to denying this aspect of their license until they demonstrate that they can operate responsibly and exercise appropriate controls over their customers.*

Absent any details around their plans vis a vis security (both inside and outside the premises) it seems doubly important that they are allowed only an earlier closing hour until a significant trouble-free period of time might justify a later closing time.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Lori Brostrom
710 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105*

After the incident that was reported where shots were fired this past weekend from outside Billy's, breaking not only windows on their business but, as reported on Next Door over the

past few days, causing damage to at least one nearby residence, I sent this:

I am also concerned about the plans around Grand Old Day and the stage and beer garden that apparently is being proposed for Billy's, per what I read in the Pioneer Press. Why would this be allowed for a known problem business which apparently is not capable of ensuring the safety of its customers and neighbors during the course of normal business hours, much less a situation like this with literally thousands of people--including children--present?

This is a business that does not belong on Grand Avenue with its present business model, and the litany of issues and violations has gone on for way too long. The owners are clearly either unable or unwilling to take the measures needed to control the behaviors of its clientele which have repeatedly endangered the lives of nearby residents and significantly impaired the livability of a primarily residential neighborhood and the nearby low-impact businesses. At this point, they should not have a liquor license, much less be allowed to sponsor a beer garden at Grand Old Day nor be given the sound level variance that goes hand in hand.

Lori Brostrom
710 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105



Virus-free www.avast.com

From: [Daniel Augustine](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand must not continue at the expense of our neighborhood.
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:42:38 PM

I am a very concerned resident of the Mac-Groveland neighborhood and have seen a huge increase in the number of violent behaviors of patrons of Billy's on Grand Ave. By allowing this irresponsible business to renew their liquor license, you will be endangering the lives and livelihoods of innocent neighbors, bystanders and patrons of other legitimate businesses in the greater neighborhood. I consider renewal of their license a dereliction of the duty of this office. If our City of St Paul continues allowing this reckless establishment to serve liquor to people with guns who shoot them at each other in the neighborhood, we will lose the other law abiding and tax paying businesses that make the high property tax paying residents of Summit Hill, Crocus Hill, and Mac Groveland want to live near Grand Avenue.

An extremely concerned resident,
Daniel Augustine

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Katherine Levin](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: No to Billy's Liquor License
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:11:38 AM

Billy's is a horrible disgrace to Grand Ave and St Paul..
Look what has happened to that corner, due to the crime..
Almost all the business have left.
This leaves an affluent area with no place to spend money or collect sales tax for our city..
I was a 30 year business owner on Grand, and am disgusted by what is going on now.
The clientele at Billy's is not from the area, and it is a violent and out of control crowd..
Do not further ruin this historic area by extending their license
K Levin
600 Montrose Lane.
St Paul

Sent from my iPad

From: [Laura Norén](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand Licensure
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:30:40 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing pursuant to the application for Billy's on Grand to operate a full-service bar until 2 am.

Under the current ownership, violent patrons have increased. A drunk driver crashed into a tree in front of my house after 1 am on a Tuesday night. The only establishment open that late serving alcohol around here was Billy's. The person was so incapable of functioning, they couldn't have come from farther away than a few blocks. They spent a good half a block driving down the grassy median on Summit, unaware that they weren't on a roadway surface.

There's nothing in the licensure application that leads me to believe they're going to cut back on over serving.

I oppose the licensure. We can do better than Billy's.

Yours,

Laura Norén
Summit and Lex
St Paul

From: Susan St John <privateartmn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 10:10 AM
To: Rebecca Noecker <Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Fwd: Bullets fired into Billy's on Grand last night

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

I agree with is protest. Deny Billys application for a liquor license.

Susan St John
25 so St Albans St
St St Paul. 55105

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sonja Mason** <sonjalmason@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, May 7, 2023, 7:22 PM
Subject: Bullets fired into Billy's on Grand last night
To: SAGGS List <saggs@googlegroups.com>

I talked to a neighbor out on the sidewalk today, and she told me about shots being fired outside of Billys On grand last last night/early morning, and that windows were broken at the bar by the bullets.

Here's what I could find online (from Twitter):



Meanwhile, the owners have been allowed to apply for a liquor license.

Consider contacting Rebecca Noecker with your thoughts on the matter.

rebecca.noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us

City council has not voted yet.

It is possible to impose conditions on this license application , such as an earlier closing time. As I understand it, if the license application is denied, a different Class N license could be sought by these owners, such as beer and wine

could potentially still be applied for if the full liquor license is not granted. Additionally, since this is a new license application, and not a revocation, another entity could potentially apply for a full liquor license.

If anyone wants to add more detail, or make corrections, please do so. Special individual invitation to Lori, since she often has a great depth of knowledge on these types of issues.



The city council has yet to vote on that recommendation.

“It is extremely important that we be able to hold a license holder accountable,” said Council Member Rebecca Noecker, who represents the neighborhood. “It’s about transferring the license from a disengaged license holder to an applicant who is engaged (so we can) put conditions on that license.”

<https://www.twincities.com/2023/04/05/billys-on-grand-allowed-to-see-liquor-license-despite-pending-revocation-process/amp/>

Sent from iPhone (please excuse the typos.)

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "StAlbansGrandGrottoSummit" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to

saggs+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/saggs/75FB1747-C858-4BB1-8FED-95661AB3BF43%40gmail.com>.

For more options, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/optout>.

From: [Wendi Kelly](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:51:16 AM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Wendi Kelly
612 432 4850

Noise, gunfire, shootings!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Diana Bird](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 8:04:50 PM

Hello,

Please do not allow Billy's to renew their full liquor license - especially not until 2:00 am. They have been a continued, and dangerous, nuisance to the community with shootings, fights, and other incidents over the years. There are plenty of other bars in the area that don't have these types of continued problems, so it's time to hold Billy's accountable for their negligence, even under new ownership. Please do not allow them to continue serving hard alcohol.

Thank you for listening.

Diana Bird
742 Laurel Avenue
651-492-0943

From: [CouncilHearing_English \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: FW: Voice Mail (1 minute and 35 seconds)
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9:19:36 AM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

Greg Weiner
Executive Assistant – City Council
Saint Paul City Council
Greg.Weiner@ci.stpaul.mn.us
651-266-8512
He/him/his

From: DIANA DENKINGER <+16514920943>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 8:11 PM
To: CouncilHearing_English (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing_English@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Voice Mail (1 minute and 35 seconds)

Hi, my name is Diana Bird D I A N A B I R D I live at Seven Four Two Laurel Avenue in Ward One. I'm calling about Billy's on Grand application for a liquor license under new ownership. I think the council will be hearing that unlike the May Twenty Fourth or Twenty Third in strong opposition to their renewing that liquor license, they've had issues under previous ownership with gun violence and fighting and then under the new ownership as well, even as recently as this past weekend, there were shootings and fights and all kinds of nonsense. And I think it speaks to the management of that organization, the fact that there are so many issues with Billy's, and dangerous issues. But there are plenty of bars in the neighborhood that's have a full bar, full liquor license, hard alcohol, beer, wine and don't have those kinds of problems. So as someone who has to live in this community and be woken up in the middle of the night when there's gun violence at bar close, especially in the summer, I'm asking you to please not renew their liquor license or maybe make it conditional. So if they could close earlier or maybe not serve alcohol or be required to have a police officer there. I don't know there's anything you can do. But please do not let them renew as is. I can be reached at 651-492-0943. Thanks for listening.

You received a voice mail from [DIANA DENKINGER](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

From: [Kristin Koziol](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Fw: Billy's on Grand
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:03:27 AM

Kristin Koziol | Executive Assistant to Councilmember Russel Balenger

Pronouns: she/her

P: 651-266-8613

E: kristin.koziol@ci.stpaul.mn.us

From: Diana Bird <dianalbird@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 08:01 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Billy's on Grand

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Hello Councilman Balenger,

I hope you are having a great week. I am writing to oppose Billy's on Grand's application for a new liquor license. As you are probably well aware, Billy's has been a source of violent crime - including shootings and fights - over the years, even as recently as this past weekend (with a new owner.) Billy's is terrible for the community, especially with a 2 am bar close. Please vote "no" on our behalf - the community would thank you for it. Appreciate your consideration.

Best,
Diana Bird
742 Laurel Avenue
651-492-0943

From: [Kristin Koziol](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Fw: Billy's On Grand concerns
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:04:13 AM

Kristin Koziol | Executive Assistant to Councilmember Russel Balenger

Pronouns: she/her

P: 651-266-8613

E: kristin.koziol@ci.stpaul.mn.us

From: Dobby Gibson <dobbygibson@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 08:18 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Billy's On Grand concerns

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

Hello, Councilmember Balenger,

I live with my family three blocks from Billy's On Grand, which I understand is being considered for a full liquor license. Our family is in opposition to this license.

Under Billy's new ownership, there has routinely been gunfire, fights, noise, and other late-night disturbances that are making our neighborhood less safe by the day, and putting the restaurant's own patrons and staff under threat.

Please oppose this ordinance.

Respectfully,

Robert Gibson
831 Holly Ave, St Paul, MN 55104

From: [nancy.ruppenthal](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's On Grand liquor license
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:16:51 AM

It is well documented that Billy's On Grand has become a magnet for public disturbance and violence. It has become obvious that the staff of Billy's is unable to deter or control these dangerous behaviors by patrons and others drawn to the place.

Besides putting lives at risk, Billy's presence is reducing quality of life in the area, deterring shoppers, displacing residents, and damaging the reputation of the Grand Avenue neighborhood.

The domino effect is real and will progress to a point of destruction of a formerly unique, safe, and beneficial business community.

Please recognize this truly damaging potential and take empowered action.

Please do not renew the liquor license which fuels this establishment. It's the right thing to do.

Thank you,
Nancy Ruppenthal
(neighborhood resident)

From: [Ann Gleeson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Please
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:32:43 AM

I live near Billy's and this establishment needs to be shut down. They do not deserve a liquor license. Billy's was a place we went and met families, watched sporting events, sat on the patio, had birthday parties, reunions. The late night crowd was college kids dancing to a hike box. We knew the servers and bar tenders and see them now at other restaurants. I support all local businesses on grand Avenue and I have not walked into Billy's in over 2 years.

Thank you,
Ann Gleeson

From: Jean Johnson <jeanmom51@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 7, 2023 2:31 AM
To: Rebecca Noecker <Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Gunfire at Billy's

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

Councilperson Noecker,

It would be fitting if this email would wake you up from a sound sleep, and keep you awake for 2+ hours as did the automatic gunfire connected to Billy's that woke us this morning. Please help our family friendly neighborhood. Residents near Billy's are on edge every weekend, wondering if automatic gunfire, and fear of bullets coming through our windows will be repeated all weekends through the summer months. Granting licenses to those who presently manage Billy's will pretty much guarantee that will be the case for months and years to come.

Vote no to licenses for Billy's.

Sincerely,
Jean and Kevin Johnson
51 S Avon St. #23
3202247779

From: [Kristin Koziol](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Fw: Billy's on Grand
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:47:45 AM

Kristin Koziol | Executive Assistant to Councilmember Russel Balenger

Pronouns: she/her

P: 651-266-8613

E: kristin.koziol@ci.stpaul.mn.us

From: Bryan Becker <bryanbecker73@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 09:28 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Billy's on Grand

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

Hi,

I live just north of Billy's on the 800 block of Holly. I am disappointed that the owners have not curbed the violence related to their business/location. I think it would be irresponsible to give them a full liquor license and to let them serve until 2AM.

I understand from an administrative and accountability standpoint that a new license is needed in the new owners name but I am concerned about continued violence if the new license allows them to operate as they are now. I support them having restrictions placed on their new license (such as beer and wine only or earlier closing time.

Thank you for your time.

Bryan

Bryan Becker
bryanbecker73@gmail.com
651-703-1319

(This email was generated with voice to text adaptive software. My apologies for any grammatical errors.)

From: Brett Lillemoe <brett@billys.com>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2017 1:54 PM
To: Councilmember Noecker <Noecker@cityofstpaul.com>
Subject: Re: Drunken Shooting May 7th 2017

Dear Councilmember Noecker,

Regrettably, I write to report that the gun violence at Billy's on Grand is going from bad to worse. Below is the latest report on behalf of all our tenants at 833 Grand, which involved automatic weapon fire just last night. For several months now our tenants have not felt safe going outside after dark, walking their dogs or whatever. It cannot be reasonably argued that this gun violence is not related to the goings-on at Billy's. We're convinced that the only path forward to restoring peace and safety to this neighborhood is a denial of a liquor license for Billy's. Before too much longer this violence will start to have a lasting negative impact, as it drives away businesses and residents from the area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards,

Brett C. Lillemoe

392 Mississippi River Blvd. N

St. Paul, MN 55104

phone: 612-669-4968

From: James Hardy <Hardy@atticusadmin.com>

Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 1:56 PM

To: Rebecca Noecker <Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: Russel Balenger <Russel.Balenger@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Mitra Jalali <Mitra.Jalali@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Amy Brendmoen <amy.brendmoen@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Nelsie Yang <Nelsie.Yang@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Jane Prince <Jane.Prince@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Charles Graupman <charles.graupman@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Eric Hudak <Eric.Hudak@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Billy's on Grand - Liquor License

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

To: Rebecca Noecker, Ward 2

Copy to: Russel Balenger, Ward 1
Chris Tolbert, Ward 3
Mitra Jalali, Ward 4
Amy Brendmoen, Ward 5 and Council President
Nelsie Yang, Ward 6
Jane L. Prince, Ward 7

Sergeant Charles Graupman, DSI-Vice/HT
Eric Hudak, Licensing Manager (DSI)

Dear Councilmember Noecker:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed liquor license for Billy's on Grand ("Billy's"). I am asking that you vote against granting Billy's a liquor license.

I am a long-term St. Paul resident. My wife and I have owned our property at 796 Summit Avenue since July 1996. I've been a St. Paul resident since 1987.

As you are likely aware, there was another incident involving the actual property of Billy's overnight Saturday (actually, approximately 1:25am on Sunday, May 7th) where shots/bullets were fired into/at Billy's. I am a nearby neighbor (one block away) and heard between sixteen and twenty gun shots.

This latest incident comes only four weeks after an exchange of gunfire occurred directly in front of my property (corner of Summit Avenue and Avon Street, FORTY FEET FROM MY FRONT DOOR) on Friday, April 7th. That exchange (estimated at as many as forty shots) resulted in a bullet going through the bedroom window of my neighbor's home.

When discussing the April 7th incident with the owner/managers of Billy's on Grand, they pushed-back that the incident had anything to do with their establishment. While this defense of their establishment in the April 7th incident cannot be refuted; the correlation of gun related incidents, at/around bar closing time, in very close proximity to Billy's cannot be dismissed. Law enforcement officials that we (neighboring residents) spoke to following this April incident essentially said the same, that while there's certainly dramatic increases in gun related incidents nearby the Billy's property – typically at/round bar close, the April 7th incident could not be directly attributed to Billy's.

The incident from early morning May 7th is absolute proof that Billy's and Billy's patrons (albeit – a very small percentage of the patrons) – are a significant (if not the primary) source to the escalated gun related incidents that occur at/around bar close time in this one-block area.

Past incidents (gunfire related and other violence) attributed to Billy's (while under the group applying for the liquor license) are a matter of public record. These past incidents, combined with the two incidents in the past month, cannot continue to be tolerated by the civic leaders of St. Paul.

Again, please vote against granting Billy's a liquor license.

Respectfully,

Jim Hardy
796 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

James B. Hardy, CPA (Inactive) CFO COO

Atticus Administration, LLC

1250 Northland Drive Suite 240 Mendota Heights MN 55120

Direct: 612-299-1800

Cell: 651-233-4421

Email: jhardy@atticusadmin.com

www.atticusadmin.com



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From: [Robert Langford](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Saturday, May 6, 2023 8:26:59 AM

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in objection to the application for license for DWD Group LLC, dba Gather Eatery & Bar, aka Billy's on Grand.

I grew up at 832 Osceola between 1957-1971. Grand Avenue was just that, *Grand*, bustling with small businesses, car dealers, grocery and drug stores and movie theaters. I witnessed the decline starting in the late '60's and the rebirth in the late '70's and early '80's. My wife and I were married in 1977 and our first home was an apartment on St. Clair and Victoria. We moved out west (Highland Park) but still would come back to Grand Ave for shopping and dining. Six years ago we found ourselves looking to downsize and we came back to this neighborhood and bought a townhome on Grotto. I say all this to show I have seen much over the years, both good and bad. I'm an *Owner* and not a *Renter*. I have some skin in the game, as they say, and I can't just pick up and leave when my lease expires. I want to see Grand flourish again with occupied store fronts, people coming and going and a buzz in the air about this wonderful street. I'm sorry to say that I don't see that happening as long as Billy's is allowed to stay in business.

I think, by the number of police calls alone to Billy's, there is a serious question as to the ability of this bar to manage its patrons and the safety of the surrounding community. Grand Avenue may not be what it once was but if this bar is to remain open , with all that comes with it, it is my belief the street will only get worse.

Most Sincerely,
Rob Langford
Grotto St S

Robert (*Rob*) Langford Jr.

Results Referral Services
Colleen Langford & Associates
RE/MAX Results

[651-271-0598](tel:651-271-0598) / *cell*
[651-698-8006](tel:651-698-8006) / *office*
[651-698-7686](tel:651-698-7686) / *fax*

From: [Bob Karls](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Noecker](#); [ZLU Committee](#); dan.ziziolek@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Subject: Comment on License Application 20230000453
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 10:59:31 AM
Attachments: [Comments to License Application 20230000453 10 May 2023 rmk.pdf](#)

Please find my comments on the proposed license attached.
Please confirm receipt of this email and the comments.
Please notify me of the hearing date for this matter.

--

Bob Karls
bkarls58@gmail.com
612-850-3811
51 Avon St. S #24
St. Paul MN 55105

Legislative Hearing Officer,

I strenuously object to the issuance of a permit under this application to this business to serve alcohol at that location. My reasons are as follows:

1. The current operators of Billy's (DWD Group) are operating under another entity's license (RPMJ Group) and are applying for their "own" license.
 - a. The current operators of Billy's that are operating have been found non-compliant under current license conditions and have been fined twice. These hearings, administrative law judge proceedings, city council meetings, etc... take a very very very long time. (OAH 71-6020-38398)
 - b. They have had two more "occurrences" that are being, or should be, brought forward as violation of license conditions that occurred during the very very very long processes for the first two incidents which both drew fines from the City council. Based on my understanding and police reports:
 - i. one was for refusing police entrance to the business to investigate after an incident/assault;
 - ii. the other was 18 June 2022 after two customers who had begun a confrontation in the facility left the specific confines of the business itself, exchanged gunfire with many rounds being fired immediately outside the business (nine casings from 2 different weapons) and then fled and to my knowledge were never apprehended even though the police could view both of them on video from inside the bar and leaving the bar. One of the rounds fired went through the kitchen window of the building that I live in and narrowly missed one of my neighbors. (pictures attached) (SPPD Case No. 22-107998)
 - iii. It is my understanding that if they are granted a new license with their own operating conditions the two outstanding license violations would be associated with the old license or possibly even just "go away". Unacceptable!
2. There have been several incidents of gunfire in the late evening hours since the incidents described above. The most recent was on the early morning hours (1:25AM) of 7 May 2023 when an incident described by police in their initial comments of their continuing investigation as:

The investigation into this incident is on-going. The incident has been assigned to the gang unit for further investigation.

So far we know that our officers were dispatched to the area of Grand/Avon just before 1:30am on 5-7-23 on the report of multiple shots fired. There was a large crowd of people in front of Billy's on Grand. Officers did not locate anyone who was injured in the incident. Two windows at Billy's on Grand had been broken and it is believed to be caused by the gun fire.

Preliminary investigation is that the rounds were fired somewhere outside on/near Grand Ave.

It is unknown at this time what lead up to the shots being fired, but that is something our gang unit investigators are working to try to determine.

Officers recovered video and other evidence that will be reviewed and process[ed] by investigators in the gang unit. No suspects at this time, but again the investigation is on-going.

I hope this helps answer some of your questions. Feel free to reach out with any additional questions or concerns. Thank you.

Stacy Murphy | Senior Commander
Western District
Saint Paul Police Department
389 N Hamline Ave | St. Paul, MN 55104
T: 651-266-5558 | C: 612-910-5685
stacy.murphy@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Trust | Service | Respect

- a. In addition to the bullets that shattered windows of Billy's own building, the following morning a resident directly across the street from Billy's found a bullet hole in a window of her residence. Picture attached. While the investigation is continuing it indicates that gunfire was going in both directions – toward Billy's (shooting out windows as indicated in the above police communication) AND away from Billy's penetrating the window and residence directly across the street.
 - b. Reports from those awakened by the gunfire at 1:25AM report that it was "automatic" gunfire (machinegun like). This is commonly observed when pistols are modified to alter the "sear" that allows semi-automatic pistols to fire in the same manner as a machine gun, often with extended magazines containing 30 rounds of ammunition. As stated above this incident has been referred to the "gang unit".
 - c. The SPPD have now stationed a monitoring trailer and camera surveillance unit in front of Billy's that is perhaps necessary under the current conditions and operations of Billy's but represents another cost for the City and is emblematic of the operation of Billy's as the nexus of violence, police response, and cost to the City and impacts to the neighborhood, the residents and other businesses as a result of and associated with the operation of Billy's.
3. They currently have uniformed unarmed security on site, the off duty Ramsey County deputies that formerly were there about a year ago are no longer - they refused to continue providing security. They frisk – pat down, customers entering after 9PM. They have private security there as a condition of their license as a consequence of conditions imposed on them as a result of multiple prior incidents at Billy's under the current owners operations. *That hasn't seemed to help much. The incidents continue.*
 4. In my opinion, the reason the shootings are happening outside of the bar is because they frisk and search patrons coming into the bar, so when they get into a dispute inside, they take their dispute outside, get their guns out of their cars, and start shooting it out.
 5. The operators of Billy's have steadfastly tried to deflect the incidents that have occurred as happening "outside of their premises". In their view - their operation creating the environment and creating the conditions in our neighborhood described above is not being anything that they can be held accountable for. This is false, wrong, disingenuous. Their operation has been the nexus for the incidents cited.
 6. The hearing examiner MUST review the prior findings by the prior administrative hearings and findings. These are FACTS and findings that must be considered in this process.
 7. The hearing examiner MUST request from the SPPD all police reports including ongoing investigations since the last administrative hearings to get the facts and full scope of the incidents and the number of incidents that the police (and the neighbors in our area) have had to deal with and endure as a direct result of the operation of Billy's over the past 2 years.
 8. During a hybrid in person and zoom meeting at the Western District SPPD offices on 15 July 2022 I participated in the meeting via Zoom (pandemic conditions) and directly asked Mr. Spearman why he had to be open between the hours of 11PM and 2AM. His two responses were:
 - a. "We just want to be treated the same as other's (a reference to other licenses in St. Paul that allow the sale of alcohol after 11PM); and
 - b. "We are a high volume business"His first comment (a.) seems to completely disregard the requests, feedback, demands from the residents in the neighborhood. His second comment (b.) indicates that the profit that the operators hope to gain between 11PM and 2AM justifies the violence, gunfire, police response and other unacceptable conditions the neighbors are expected to endure so that he can gain profit from alcohol sales from 11PM to 2AM.
 9. The operators of Billy's, in the background of all that has occurred above and the repeated requests from the neighbors and recommendations from the police to not offer events that create the Nexus for

late night violence, gunfire, noise and disturbance in our neighborhood have continued to do just that. A posting from the internet for a recent event:

{REWIND
SATURDAYS}: Cinco
De Mayo Weekend

Sat May 06 2023 at 09:00 pm

Billy's On Grand, 857 Grand Ave, Saint
Paul, United States

Have you been waiting for the weather
to break (AGAIN) just like we have???
Great because we have the perfect
theme to kick off the Spring season
(AGAIN) at Rewind Saturdays!!!

song!

You don't wanna miss this!!!

Vibes curated by DJ Enferno and

Hosted by Lightskin Jermaine!!!!

{REWIND SATURDAYS} Home of

Vintage Hip-Hop & R&B

LADIES ONLY: TEXT REWIND to

763.247.1104 for FREE Guest List!

(Must arrive between 9-10pm)

FOOD | DRINKS | MUSIC | GOOD VIBES

|

Where: Billy's On Grand

When: Every Saturday 9p-2a

Cost: \$10

Dress Code: Cool Fly & Flashy

Orchestrated by: The Specialist

<https://djenfernobooking.com/event/4818994/614434017/rewind-saturdays>

Please note – “When: **Every Saturday 9p-2a**”

This would be the “event” that preceded the gunfire described in #2. above

The operators of Billy’s have shown no ability to control the violence that has become associated with their operation and have shown no willingness to modify their operations in spite of continued violence and gunfire.

There have been assertions of racism and prejudice against my neighbors and others in the community who have spoken out against the operations of Billy's over the past two years by the operators of Billy's. These unfounded assertions have appeared both in print and broadcast media. I am offended by those assertions. The issues enumerated above are FACTS. Bullet holes are bullet holes, spent casings on the curb are real and tangible. The assertions of racism are a disingenuous attempt to deflect the responsibility for the serious issues outlined above.

My strong recommendations:

- A. Do not issue a new license at this time to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eater & Bar until all open incidents associated with the current operation under the current license have been fully processed through DSI, the city attorney, and any office of administrative hearings and the City council. These issues are serious and the refusal to allow police to enter the facility may itself result in revocation of the existing license. The operators should not be allowed to evade responsibility by attempting to get a completely new license and not be held to account for their past violations of an existing license they are operating under. **Their request for a new license at this time is a ploy to avoid revocation of the existing license that Billy’s is operating under due to the past violations and penalties and the pending actions discussed above. It is my understanding that under City licensing**

the revocation of the existing license would result in that physical location not being able to receive a new full liquor license for 15 years. The outcome of fines, additional conditions, and potential revocation of the current liquor license as a result of administrative and City council process related to items 1. b. i. and ii. above should be allowed to process through the system. The issuance of a "new" license should not circumvent the process and allow them to evade the consequences of their prior, and current operations of the facility.

- B. If after going through the hearings and actions related to the prior incidents outlined above the City does not revoke the existing full liquor license for the current operators of Billy's (this would be a tragedy and an abdication of their role and duty) then:
 - a. The city must put additional restrictions on the license conditions and among other conditions restrict the operation to close at 11pm;
 - b. the existing license should not be renewed at the time it comes up for renewal; and
 - c. a new license should not be issued at that time.
- C. If in spite of our objection to the issue of a new license - if the council would feel pressured into making that very unfortunate and inappropriate decision, the license should be greatly restricted from the license that currently exists to conform to the character and nature of the neighborhood:
 - a. considering the past issues of the operation that location should focus on food and have a beer and wine only license.
 - b. considering the noise and disruption of the operation on the mixed business residential nature of our neighborhood an 11PM end of beer and wine services to its patrons is most appropriate.

I look to the hearing examiner, DSI, and the City Council to show bold and clear leadership on this issue to show concern for the residents and the other businesses in our area and to restore and maintain the feeling and reputation of Grand Avenue and the greater neighborhood as a safe and enjoyable place to be. In addition, for the residents in our area, we want to feel safer walking our streets, being out at night, and going to the window and not fear catching a stray bullet.

Robert Karls
51 Avon Street South, #24
St. Paul MN 55105
612-850-3811 (cell)
Bkarls58@gmail.com

See attached exhibits on following page.



Bullet holes in kitchen window from shooting evening of 18 June 2022. Multiple shots fired.



Police monitoring station now in place Directly across from Billy's - 9 May 2023



Thanks so much, Billy's on Grand, for the bullet hole on my porch from Saturday night!
Billy's On Grand, Saint Paul, MN

(screenshot from posting on NextDoor)

Bullet hole in window of residence directly across from Billy's – Early morning 1:25am 7 May 2023

REWIND SATURDAYS

📍 Sat, May 13 @ 9:00PM — Sun, May 14 @ 2:00AM (CDT, UTC-05)

📍 [Billy's On Grand, 857 Grand Ave, St. Paul](#)

{REWIND SATURDAYS}

FOOD | DRINKS | MUSIC | GOOD VIBES

Where: Billy's On Grand

When: Every Saturday 9p-2a

Cost: \$10

Dress Code: Cool Fly & Flashy (No Baseball Caps)

Vibe Selectors: DJ Enferno

Orchestrated by: Bachelor Boy | Winner's Circle MPLS | DJ Enferno

🔗 SHARE

[View on Google Maps](#)

<https://djenfernobooking.com/event/4818994/614434017/rewind-saturdays> posted on the internet 10 May 2023 - 3 days after the last gunfire outside Billy's

From: [Lois Berens](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:11:07 AM

To the Legislative Hearing Officer Considering Licensure of Billy's on Grand:

I live a block from Billy's, and I get more and more upset with each episode of gunshots and fights that we hear about. I am most emphatically OPPOSED to licensing this formerly friendly neighborhood bar. I no longer walk at night in my neighborhood ... it's just not safe.

Please, be proactive here and deny this license application.

Lois Berens
734 Summit Ave, #1
Saint Paul MN 55105
CELL: (515) 778-0306

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Linda Makinen](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Cc: [StAlbansGrandGrottoSummit](#)
Subject: Billy's License Application
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:41:49 AM

I am joining my many neighbors in **opposing** the liquor license application by the owner of Billy's on Grand Avenue.

The late hours that are requested have attracted a liquor-infused crowd that has no respect for nearby neighbors. The owner has sought, from the beginning of his ownership, to expand his late hour liquor sales. He has repeatedly broken his promises to rectify the resulting situation and will do that again, in my opinion. Billy's owners say that nearby problems are society's problem, not theirs. I agree that society has huge problems that **must** be addressed, but if that is the problem for Billy's, every establishment on Grand would be having the same issues as Billy's has.

Please deny the late-hour liquor license application by the owners of Billy's.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Makinen
24 Saint Albans St. So.

From: [David Sisk](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand license application
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:46:22 AM

Please add my name to the list of St. Paul citizens urging you NOT to approve a renewed liquor license for Billy's on Grand. It's abundantly clear that the owners have taken no responsibility to reduce patron misbehavior. Drug use, violence, and flying bullets are standard fare now. I have no faith that the owners will take such responsibility in the future. If it were run like a neighborhood bar and grill, as it was for years, this place wouldn't be a problem. However, the owners have essentially turned it into a nightclub, which is an entirely different animal. It's dangerous even to drive past Billy's.

I ask you please NOT to renew Billy's liquor license.

Sincerely,
David Sisk

From: [Paul Acito](#)
To: [Linda Makinen](#)
Cc: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#); [StAlbansGrandGrottoSummit](#)
Subject: Re: Billy's License Application
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 12:08:19 PM

I align with the OPPOSITION of the liquor license application for Billy's. What possible upside for the community is there for this extension? Plenty of downside...

Why so much favorability to this one business at the expense of residential interests? Seems odd.

From: [Jeanie Hart-Grunau](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 12:20:49 PM

Do NOT renew Billy's on Grand business license.

Do NOT renew Billy's on Grand liquor license.

Please!

I am a home owner in the area and have seen the problems Billy's has caused !

Thank you
Jeanie Hart-Grunau

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Roddie Turner](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 12:33:43 PM

I am writing to urge St. Paul to deny Billy's on Grand Avenue a liquor license. There is no place that deserves to run a business serving alcohol whose patrons disrupt a neighborhood for over a year with noise, shootings, shots fired into people's homes while they're sleeping, speeding and reckless driving, assaults and general criminal behavior.

Thank you,
Roddie Turner
452 Laurel Avenue

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Susan Elsass](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 12:47:46 PM

To whom it may concern,

I'm concerned for the safety of all in Saint Paul. I'm speaking about the gun violence that has happened multiple times in and just outside of Billy's. Even with their frisking and safety policies the gun fire continues. To stop this gun violence I request that Billy's does not get a new license.

Thank you for listening.

Susan Elsass

768 Lincoln Ave.

Saint Paul, MN55105

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gena Berglund](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 12:48:48 PM

I oppose granting a liquor license to the owner of Billy's on Grand Avenue, because of the increase in gun violence and other crime in the area near Billy's over the past three years. The owner has had a chance to close earlier and discourage criminally-oriented customers and has not been successful. Thank you.

Gena Berglund

From: [Kathy Larkins](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#); [Bob Karls](#); [Stacy Murphy](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward2](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand liquor license
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 12:48:49 PM

Wes Spearman and the management of Billy's need to be held accountable for the recent shooting at Billy's on 5-7. They also need to be accountable for the previous shootings on that block after 11pm at night. This is a mixed neighborhood (business AND residential) that has never had to worry about being a magnet for mayhem. The standard needs to be higher here because it is a quiet residential neighborhood. THE BAR MUST BE RAISED! NO EXCUSES!

The sum total of all the police reports, 911 calls and the severity of the crimes obviously with the shootings HAS to be considered.

The place needs to shut down or be open with conditions. The conditions are: If Billy's stays open, it needs to close NO LATER then 11pm. It needs to have MORE cameras placed outside the building AND in the alley. Police HAVE to be allowed immediate access to the cameras when requested.

It is YOUR JOB in the DSI department as well as City Council and the Mayor to keep law abiding, innocent citizens safe. It is NOT just the job of the Police.

Kathy Larkins
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Brendon Cullinan](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:14:35 PM

I live nearby and i am afraid to walk on grand near Billy's especially in the evenings and at night because the people there are drunk and rowdy. This is a family neighborhood, with little kids and old people. This has been going on for years! Please stop giving them a liquor license.

Brendon Cullinan
846 Holly Ave
Saint paul.

612-803-7188

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rosalyn Goldberg](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#); [Rebecca Noecker](#)
Subject: Billy's
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:35:09 PM

Per my previous email, I am re-stating my opposition to the approval of Billy's liquor license request. Enough is enough. Wes has had ample opportunity to rectify the issues at Billy's on Grand.

No other (license holding) business, on Grand Ave., has had as many issues as Billy's. These businesses have been around successfully for years. "Social issues" have been around for years. I would venture to guess there have been more police calls to Billy's, in their short lifetime, than all other Grand Ave businesses combined.

Suggestions have been made to Billy's as possible deterrents for their issues, such as earlier closing times. They have balked at these suggestions. (You don't

want to be "the last place open" in a residential area.)

Billy's (out of their own mouths) can't decide what they want to be. First they were a restaurant that served alcohol, then they were a "club", next a "sports bar", now a restaurant, again. If they want to be a restaurant, then they need to serve actual food, not chicken wings and nachos, suspend liquor sales, or go with beer and wine only. Most importantly, close early. They cannot compare themselves to other businesses that stay open later (very few) as "they" do not have a myriad of police calls. Make Billy's "family-friendly". This business plan has worked for other businesses. Billy's business model is not working.

No amount of security will eliminate the

issues at Billy's. It should not be the SPPD's responsibility to "babysit" Billy's.

What innocent person needs to be killed by a stray bullet before someone addresses the elephant in the room ???

We all want successful businesses on Grand, but I ask you to please stop coddling Billy's at the expense of the neighborhood.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,
Rosalyn Goldberg
1023 Grand Ave, #6 (43 years)
(Bartender 47 years, including 2 years on Grand). Blockleader)

From: [Natalie Cushing](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:08:58 PM

To whom it may concern,

I would greatly appreciate it if you would consider NOT renewing the liquor license for Billy's on grand. I work two jobs so I can live in a nice neighborhood and this is the only business in the area that causes continuous problems and gun violence.

Thank you for your consideration,
Natalie Cushing
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Eunice Smith](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy"s on Grand
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:07:03 PM
Attachments: [image536247.png](#)

Please condition any approval of a liquor license on their closing no later than 11 pm.



NMLS# 338923

Eunice Smith

Mortgage Loan Originator - NMLS# 244537

AnnieMac Home Mortgage

9531 West 78th Street, Suite 350, Eden Prairie, MN, 55344

Email: ESmith@Annie-Mac.com

Tel: 952-405-2330

Cell: 651-366-2430

Fax: 952-405-2330

Web: <https://eunicesmith.annie-mac.com>

**SCHEDULE
A CALL**

Warning - please read!

WIRE FRAUD IS ON THE RISE.

Please note, AnnieMac Home Mortgage will NEVER send money, wire, transfer or disbursement instructions as part of your loan application process. You should receive such instructions from your Closing Agent. Contact the Closing Agent directly for confirmation.

If you receive such instructions from what appears to be an AnnieMac email account, please contact incident@annie-mac.com.

From: [Ingrid Forsberg](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Do not renew Liquor license for Billy's on Grand Ave.
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:40:57 PM

I have read and heard about there has been shootings around this establishment.
I live at Wilder park in St. Paul and urge you to take action by not allowing Billy's to continue to operate .
Thank you for keeping out neighborhood safe.
Ingrid Forsberg
dabest_ma@yahoo.com

From: [John Callahan](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#); jwcalla56@gmail.com
Subject: DWD Group LLC, Wesley Spearman Owner. License Application
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:27:00 PM

To: Legislative Hearing Officer

I am a homeowner very close to the 857 Grand business applying for a license. I live at 21 S Avon St and have been at this location for 21 years. It is apparent to me that the current owners are not capable of running an establishment that is a value added institution in this neighborhood. Given the number of police calls to the business and the fines levied, one would think that the business would have made the appropriate changes if they desired to remain in this neighborhood. They have not and in fact the situation continues to worsen.

We have had a person shot and killed after closing across the street. There has been increasing vandalism after the bar closes. I have had my residence tagged more than once. This past week (May 2023) I had a liquor bottle thrown through one of my windows on the alley that I share with Billys. Last Sunday morning at 1:20 am, my wife and I were woken up by two successive rapid fire volleys of 5 shots each. This neighborhood is sliding quickly into a lawless, unsafe place.

I strongly urge the Legislative Hearing Office and the City Council to deny this group an on-going license. If the Saint Paul administration cannot take steps to improve the safety of Grand Avenue, then the result will surely be residents leaving the city, reduced property values, and reduced tax revenue. This would be a spiral reminiscent of the 1960's and 1970's that none of the residents (who have invested in this area since then) would like to see.

Please do your utmost to make our neighborhood a safe place to live.

John Callahan
612-325-7730

From: [Susan Gillette](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's liquor license
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 6:27:03 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to granting Billy's on Grand Ave. a liquor license or an extension of their hours.

There has been violence and death at this establishment, including during this past weekend.

This absolutely could be even worse with a renewal of their liquor license and/or an extension of it.

Please contain the damage!

Susan Gillette 651-222-8178

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Maria Taft](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's liquor license
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:37:14 PM

I am emailing regarding my concerns are the Billy's on grand Ave St. Paul having a liquor license. There has been tremendous amounts of violence related to that establishment.

Maria Taft

From: [Gen Surge](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:42:22 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

From: [Richard](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: DWD Group LLC, Gather Eatery & Bar, currently operating as Billy's on Grand
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 10:17:41 PM

Hello,

I am writing to you to demand that you deny a liquor license to Billy's on Grand.

I have lived in this area for over 30 years and there have never been so many violent and dangerous incidents in the neighborhood. All of these are centered around Billy's on Grand.

Billy's has proven that they attract and encourage a dangerous and violent crowd, unlike any other establishment on Grand Avenue.

On 05/07/23 my cousin had a bullet go through her porch window due to the most recent gunfire.

Billy's needs to be gone, and no liquor license will most likely get them out of there for good.

Let someone who respects the community and the safety of others over quick booze profits come in and run the bar/restaurant in the same peaceful way their neighbors do.

Thank you,

Richard Thorson

From: [Deborah del Castillo](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's Liquor License Renewal
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 8:37:11 AM

Hello,

I formerly attended a college on Summit, and live in a closely adjacent community that allows proximity to frequently shop, dine, and utilize service businesses located on the unique treasure that is Grand Avenue.

A business such as Billy's is out of place with its location if it causes its immediate neighbors strife, discomfort, and legitimate fear of violence.

A renewed liquor license threatens the viability of surrounding businesses and safe housing. Billy's is an oppressive influence upon thousands of area residents and consumers.

For decades, I have frequented Penzeys, Golden Fig (which is the only Midwest dealer of a specific premium brand of cookware), Frattallone's hardware, Caffe Latte, Punch Pizza, Red Balloon, Wet Paint, Kowalskis, and many others. Grand Avenue is a St Paul and area jewel. I do not want to lose access to any of these businesses due to degraded security in their location on Grand Avenue.

Please require a renewed business plan from Billy's before approving a liquor license. Presently, this disruptive business threatens and is not serving its surrounding community.

Thank you,

Deborah del Castillo
West Saint Paul resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jones, Jack](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Re: License Application for DWD Group at 857 Grand Ave
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 9:26:18 AM

Text by S.B. Jones sent by J.R. Jones

Legislative Hearing Officer

Ample evidence shows that **the operators of Billy's (DWD Group), currently operating under a license held by RPMJ Group, should be denied their own license.** I draw this conclusion based on the record of violations and decades of association with this neighborhood. I currently live at 57 Avon St. S. #31 and Billy's can be seen from my kitchen window.

Under the operation by DWD there have been a string of disturbances that are directly related to the behavior of patrons (including gunfire) and an alleged assault in the establishment. The owners have been fined twice for being non-compliant under license conditions. However, serious issues continue.

Around 1:26 am on 7 May 2023 my husband was awakened by rapid gunfire and viewed a police vehicle outside of Billy's. Understand, there are now bullets being discharged in an otherwise (formerly) peaceful neighborhood. The gunfire is directly associated with the patrons of Billy's on Grand. And now there is a police monitoring station directly across from Billy's. None of this is normal.

I ask – among the numerous restaurants and bars along Grand Avenue, between Lexington and Dale, are there recorded incidents of firearms being discharged or the need for police monitoring stations?

The Billy's on Grand experiment has failed. There is no evidence that the situation has improved and more of the same can be expected. The neighborhood is much less safe as a consequence of how Billy's on Grand is currently operated. Changing the name will not make a difference.

Please deny application 20230000453.

Susan B. Jones, PhD
573-529-3588

From: [Nancy S](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Object to Billy's on Grand license
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 9:47:44 AM

I object to this license as the owners have not proven that they are able to control their clientele. They need to create an environment that is fitting for a neighborhood restaurant. 2am is way too late to be open and it just causes headaches for homeowners and renters in the area. If we want to get Grand Ave back to a thriving community hub, we need to take a strong stance on business owners who do not share our vision and values. I strongly object to this license. Please do what you can to help us get Grand Ave back to being a safe place and an asset to the area. Thank you.

Nancy Spangrud
783 Hague Ave, St Paul, MN 55104

From: [Daniel Mau](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand Liquor License
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 8:57:34 PM

As a local resident, I oppose renewing/extending Billy's liquor license. The owners have clearly not been running the establishment in a manner that is safe for the neighborhood. It used to be a favorite family restaurant, and now we need to be afraid to be in the area on weekend evenings.

The amount of violence, gun shots and neighborhood complaints in the last few years is unacceptable, and extending liquor licenses will only exacerbate the issues.

There are many other bars in the area operating safely without issues, so it's clear the problem is with this establishment.

- Dan Mau

From: [Amanda Fjelstad](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Objection of Renewal of Liquor License Billy's on Grand
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 10:13:04 AM

As a resident of the neighborhood, living just blocks away from this establishment, and a manager of a family owned restaurant/bar, located just down the street, I'm asking that you deny the request for renewal for Billy's liquor license. This is a safety concern, and they cannot continue to operate under these conditions. This establishment has had well over 200 police calls within one year including criminal sexual assault, illegal drug use, robbery with weapons, gang activity, public intoxication, domestic assault, assault with a vehicle, theft and vandalism of residential homes located next to and around the bar, and several shots fired with victims all caused by the clientele of Billy's. I've lived in the neighborhood for almost 20 years and have never experienced so much criminal activity all stemming from this bar. As a manager of a restaurant that's located just blocks away, we close early as a safety precaution for both our employees and guests all as a result of the clientele that start to come into the neighborhood at that 9:00/10:00 time. It's absurd that this establishment has been allowed to remain in business this long with all the criminal activity that has occurred. Council member Rebecca Noecker, do your job and protect your residents and other local business owners. Deny the request and close them down immediately.

Amanda O'Neill
Lincoln Ave Resident

From: [Erika Herrmann](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Let's solve the Billy's problem
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 10:52:37 AM

Dear City Council,

I have been a resident of the Summit University neighborhood since 1998. I am writing with deepening concern for the gun violence and other safety issues that are concentrated at Billy's on Grand Ave. I am asking you to please not renew the liquor license for Billy's.

Grand Avenue as a whole is at a fragile point in its post-Covid, post-social justice unrest recovery. Allowing the ongoing issues that Billy's has not been able to successfully address through interventions like frisking customers would jeopardize the health of one of St Paul's key destinations: Grand Avenue.

With ample evidence of the out-sized safety issues generated by Billy's, it would seem like this step — not renewing Billy's liquor license — is an easy one to take.

Thank you for your work in keeping St. Paul safe and thriving.

Respectfully,

Erika Herrmann
561 Laurel Ave, #5
St Paul, MN 55102
651.602.0668

From: [Alisa Lein](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Re: Billy's, again
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:33:49 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Greg -

Please see my updated statement below with appropriate public contact information below my signature to be attached to the record file. Thanks! Alisa Lein

CM Noecker -

I wish I wasn't writing this, but here we are. Again.

More gunshots rang out at Billy's early this Sunday morning, May 7, 2023. I'm beyond frustrated. Enough is enough.

Billy's seems to be the only establishment on Grand Ave to be **the continuous magnet** for this bad behavior after 10pm. It's not a coincidence and it's not random. **The attraction of violence to Billy's needs to stop, permanently. Please help. The community needs help.**

Just Friday I met with someone looking to rent one of our apartments just one block away from Billy's. He really liked the unit but his main holdup we talked about was "How is the crime in the neighborhood? I've heard a lot about Billy's recently". I'm quite sure after the events in the last 12 hours he will move on with his search for a place to call home and it will not be Grand Ave.

Please consider stronger penalties to Billy's until they can prove a long standing history of good behavior. Closing time by 10pm would be a start. No amount of alcohol sales are worth losing a life over. Thankfully, no one was killed this morning.

Thanks for listening.

~ Alisa Lein
651-224-2653
alisa@apts.cc

On Thu, May 11, 2023 at 9:57 AM *CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing <LH-Licensing@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

We include all information that was included in your letter into the public record, including your contact info. It will appear as an attachment to the file. If you are unable to attend, the hearing officer will read from the content of your letter during the hearing.

Greg Weiner

Executive Assistant – City Council

Saint Paul City Council

Greg.Weiner@ci.stpaul.mn.us

651-266-8512

He/him/his

From: Alisa Lein <alisalein@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 5:35 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing <LH-Licensing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Billy's, again

Greg -

Thanks for the reply. I'm unable to attend an in person hearing on June 1st, sorry. The 1st of a month in the property management of apartments world is very busy. Assuming my written statement goes into the public record, please do not have my phone number public nor e-mail address along with the written testimony. Appreciate it. If either of those items are required parts of the statement, please let me know.

Thanks, Alisa Lein

On Wed, May 10, 2023 at 12:02 PM *CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing <LH-Licensing@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

This email is to acknowledge that your objection to the license application for DWD Group LLC, dba Gather Eatery & Bar, 857 Grand Ave, has been received and added to the record. Your objection will require an in-person hearing to allow concerned residents, the applicant, and other interested parties to share their perspective. Please be aware that the closing date ends on May 19, 2023, and the hearing will tentatively take place after that on June 1 at 2pm. Final confirmation will be sent on the closing date. Please see attachments for additional information.

Thanks in advance for raising your concern and please communicate directly with me regarding questions about the process and how you can participate.

Greg Weiner

Executive Assistant – Licensing Hearings

Saint Paul City Council

Greg.Weiner@ci.stpaul.mn.us

651-266-8512

He/him/his

From: Kayla Thao <kayla.thao@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:05 AM
To: Alisa Lein <alisalein@gmail.com>
Cc: *CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing <LH-Licensing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Billy's, again

Hi Alisa-

Thank you for contacting our office to share your concern about the shooting at Billy's on Grand. Councilmember Noecker asked me to respond to you with the most up-to-date information we have.

Public safety is a priority for CM Noecker and our entire office and we are very concerned about this recent shooting. CM Noecker is staying in close touch with the police department as the investigation into the incident proceeds. Currently, the incident has been assigned to the gang unit for further investigation.

It is unknown at this time what led up to the shots being fired, but that is something the SPPD-Gang Unit investigators are working to try to determine. Officers recovered video and other evidence that will be reviewed and process by investigators in the Gang Unit. There are no suspects at this time, but again, the investigation is ongoing.

Before deciding whether to grant a license and whether to impose any conditions on that license, our licensing staff will be holding a public hearing on June 1. I am cc'ing our licensing team so they can take your concerns into account.

Thank you for contacting our office to share your concern about the shooting at Billy's on Grand. Councilmember Noecker asked me to respond to you with the most up-to-date information we have.

Public safety is a priority for CM Noecker and our entire office and we are very concerned about this recent shooting. CM Noecker is staying in close touch with the police department as the investigation into the incident proceeds. Currently, the incident has been assigned to the gang unit for further investigation.

It is unknown at this time what led up to the shots being fired, but that is something the SPPD-Gang Unit investigators are working to try to determine. Officers recovered video and other evidence that will be reviewed and process by investigators in the Gang Unit. There are no suspects at this time, but again, the investigation is ongoing.

Before deciding whether to grant a license and whether to impose any conditions on the application submitted from Mr. Wes Spearman for Gather Eatery & Bar (857 Grand Avenue), our legislative code requires notice and an opportunity to be heard. This hearing has been tentatively noticed for June 1, 2023. At this time, our licensing staff will be holding a public hearing and members of the community can participate either in person or through written correspondence at

lh-licensing@ci.stpaul.mn.us. This is the proper venue for your concerns to be heard and considered.

If you have questions about your participation at the licensing hearing or would like to share your additional concerns, I am cc'ing our licensing team so they can take your concerns into account.

After the licensing hearing, the Legislative Hearing Officer will prepare a recommendation. This generally takes about two weeks. When the report is complete, the recommendation of the Legislative Hearing Officer will be placed on the City Council agenda so that City Council can consider the license application, the report of the Legislative Hearing Officer and any recommended conditions.

At this point, Councilmember Noecker and her colleagues will be acting in their quasi-judicial capacity. As a result, she cannot take a position on this matter or have private conversations as our legislative code requires that City Council consider the record before it.

If you have questions about the prior process and procedures, we encourage you to refer to RES 23-417 and [view the video](#) from the City Council meeting which lays out the next steps available to the City Council.

Thanks for your continued patience and we hope to know more about the shooting.

Best,

Kayla Thao

Executive Assistant to Councilmember Rebecca Noecker

Office of City Council-Ward 2

15 W. Kellogg Boulevard, Suite 310B

Saint Paul, MN 55102

P: 651-266-8620 | F: 651-266-8574

kayla.thao@ci.stpaul.mn.us

www.StPaul.gov



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From: Alisa Lein <alisalein@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 7, 2023 11:08 AM

To: Rebecca Noecker <Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: info@summithillassociation.org; director@summithillassociation.org

Subject: Billy's, again

Think Before You

Click: This email originated outside our organization.

CM Noecker -

I wish I wasn't writing this, but here we are. Again.

More gunshots rang out at Billy's early this Sunday morning, May 7, 2023. I'm beyond frustrated. Enough is enough.

Billy's seems to be the only establishment on Grand Ave to be **the continuous magnet** for this bad behavior after 10pm. It's not a coincidence and it's not random. **The attraction of violence to Billy's needs to stop, permanently. Please help. The community needs help.**

Just Friday I met with someone looking to rent one of our apartments just one block away from Billy's. He really liked the unit but his main holdup we talked about was "How is the crime in the neighborhood? I've heard a lot about Billy's recently". I'm quite sure after the events in the last 12 hours he will move on with his search for a place to call home and it will not be Grand Ave.

Please consider stronger penalties to Billy's until they can prove a long standing history of good behavior. Closing time by 10pm would be a start. No amount of alcohol sales are worth losing a life over. Thankfully, no one was killed this morning.

Thanks for listening.

~ Alisa Lein

612-387-7929 (c)

From: [Allison McMenimen Bakken](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: A plea from a residential neighbor, Billy's On Grand Liquor License
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:53:57 AM

Hello,

I am voicing my concern as a resident of Summit Hill and a mother of a young child. I beg you NOT to approve the liquor licence for Billy's on Grand. It is clear that they need to determine a better path forward for their business to be safe and successful. A liquor license will only stall their chance at safety and success.

If there is any information about public discussions, please let me know.

Thank you,
Allison Bakken
809 Lincoln Ave (future resident of of May 22, 2023)

From: [Craig Lind](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:58:14 AM

Hello - as a resident of Mac Groveland trying to raise my three kids in a community that I grew to love while attending University of St. Thomas, I urge you to not renew the liquor license for Billy's on Grand. My wife and I will not go out to eat on Grand after dark anywhere within blocks of this location because of all the recklessness and crime that has been occurring. This is directly impacting the nearby businesses and residents.

Over this last winter a couple of my friends were coming into St. Paul and wanted to meet me for food and a drink. They both had attended St. Thomas but now lived in the suburbs. Before I could explain to them that we do not want to go to Billy's they were in the parking lot and walking in. I got there a few minutes later and when I walked in I was overwhelmed by the smell of smoke. We ended up not even staying long enough to finish a drink. They will not be coming back to St. Paul anytime soon.

You will be losing a lot of businesses and residents because of Billy's if you approve their liquor license.

Thank you for your time -

Craig Lind
612-275-1144

From: [Ellen.Lind](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy"s on Grand
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 12:12:34 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

The shootings and violence at Billy's on Grand Avenue in St. Paul is unacceptable. I have lived in the Mac Groveland, Merriam park neighborhoods for almost 30 years and have never seen this level of violence. Billy's use to be a safe bar that was an active part of the Grand Avenue businesses, we use to enjoy many Grand Ol' Day weekends and celebrating many other events at this establishment. The owners have decided to block all the windows and not work with local authorities to try to get things under control. The bar needs to be shut down. People living nearby should not have to worry about their residences being hit with bullets. Close the bar down, yank the liquor license, force a 10:00pm closure, please do something before some innocent bystander gets hurt or is killed. Please help make Grand Avenue a safe area again where the majority can feel safe dining and shopping.

Thank you for reading,

Ellen Lind

1447 Palace Avenue

From: [Barry Guettler](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's License Application
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 1:15:04 PM

Hello, My wife and I have lived in St Paul 600 -700 block of Lincoln since 2018. We moved here because of how close we are to Grand Ave and all its restaurants and shops which one of us spends money at every single day.

Over the last 5 years Billy's has been a resounding negative to the area. I've never once felt comfortable going there with my family (we go to the Tavern on Grand all the time) as the clientele are the loud, abnoxious hard core drinking types. It's not a family bar and restaurant at all and it's in one of the best neighborhoods in the twin cities.

I don't see the need for a neighborhood bar to be open late. All it's going to do is give another destination for the hard core drinkers to drive to for a final final. Not in my neighborhood please!!!

More so, as it regards Billy's I was really hopeful that the new owner would clean it up and make it into a family friendly establishment but they haven't. I feel he's had enough time to turn it around but he's done nothing to make it fit in the family neighborhood. Instead he wants to make it a late night bar enticing all the drunks with guns for miles to frequent it. Please pull their license and let someone else try to make the space into a restaurant more fitting to the area. How many people have to get shot before you do something?

Regards,

Barry Guettler

From: [ratwi001_University of Minnesota](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Cc: [Anita Ratwik](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand license
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 2:30:04 PM

We have lived in our home on the corner of Dale and Goodrich Ave for over 30 years. I remember when Billy's on Grand was a welcome addition to the neighborhood, and while a teacher at Ramsey Jr High, our staff would play trivia there. We also ate there from time to time. Billy's was a welcome part of this neighborhood. That has changed, and I strongly urge you to DENY Billy's current license request. Or modify it CONSIDERABLY . I would suggest a closing time of 9 P.M. until they have cleaned up their problems with late night customers. Even closing at 10 PM and no alcohol served after 9 PM. Plus continued weapons check before entry.

The LEX closes at 10 PM. Being part of a residential neighborhood, that time works and they have been good neighbors.

Anita Ratwik
622 Goodrich Ave

From: [Nancy Rech](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy"s on grand liquor license
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 2:56:35 PM

That bar has been so problematic for the neighborhood and this city. Please do not renew their liquor license! Send a strong message that Saint Paul will not tolerate this criminal behavior by their patrons! Thank you

From: [Brenda Braget](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 3:18:56 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Brenda Braget
942 Summit Ave
St. Paul, Mn 55105

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lynne Moser](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand liquor license - please vote NO!
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 3:25:19 PM

To whom it may concern,

The request for a liquor license for Billy's on Grand should be denied. The amount of violence, particularly gun violence, including the recent firing of automatic weapons is terrifying. To expand the liquor license for this establishment is irresponsible and potentially deadly to people living, working and coming to Saint Paul for entertainment. I would like to go so far as to suggest this location be closed, but I know the issue at hand is whether or not to approve their liquor license. As a concerned resident in Saint Paul, I strongly urge you to deny the request for a liquor license.

With much care and concern for my family, our neighbors and neighborhood!

Lynne Moser 4047358847

From: [John Gehan](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's license
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 3:51:24 PM

I am opposed to re-licensing Billy's Bar on Grand Avenue. The place has been nothing but trouble, and neighbors are afraid to get close later in the evening. Fights, gunshots, loud cars, and more. Close this place down. It is trouble.

NOTE NEW CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW:

John P. Gehan
734 Summit Ave., #3
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105 USA
JohnGehan@comcast.net
Cell: 651-440-1442

Thought for the day:

The plural of anecdote is not evidence.

Thought for tomorrow:

“That’s not a chip on my shoulder. That’s your foot on my neck.” — Malcolm X

From: [Jenni Leafblad](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's bar
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 4:41:50 PM

Dear City of Saint Paul licensing board,

I am writing to express my concern about the liquor license renewal application for Billys Bar on Grand Avenue in St. Paul. Due to the high number of violent and gun related incidents connected to the establishment, I would like to express my concern and opposition to a liquor license being issued to this business. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Jenni Leafblad
Mac Groveland neighborhood resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jan M Joncas](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: do not renew liquor license for Billy's on Grand
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 5:17:33 PM

As a resident of the Summit Hill neighborhood (I live on the 700 block of Grand Avenue) I am disturbed by the amount of violence associated with Billy's on Grand. I believe that this violence would be minimized or ended if Billy's were not allowed to serve liquor. At the very least Billy's on Grand should increase its security forces.

(Fr.) Jan Michael Joncas

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jon Lund](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 6:33:39 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

From: [Diane Lund](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 6:35:14 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Sincerely,
Diane Lund

From: [Lori Kustritz](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 7:13:58 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Lori Kustritz
Lorikustritz@mac.com

From: [Amy Forstner](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 8:36:31 PM

My husband and I live on Goodrich Ave.— 2 blocks from Billy's on Grand Ave.

Please do not renew their liquor license. We are tired of hearing gunfire and afraid to walk home down Grand Avenue past Billy's after dark. Something has to be done before an innocent person is shot and killed.

From: [Charlotte Lewis](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: No to renewing Billy"s on Grand liquor license
Date: Friday, May 12, 2023 7:59:14 AM

This irresponsible bar/restaurant should not be allowed to renew it's liquor license because it does not do enough to keep its operation in check.

Charlotte Lewis, St Paul resident

From: [Ned Gaffaney](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Against Billy's License
Date: Friday, May 12, 2023 9:46:26 AM

As some one who lives next door. I have been accosted and threatened just walking by the establishment. When u see multiple guys running around the block with AR-15s that are shouldered time to go! This aint Aleppo. Someone is gonna lose their life just like that bouncer did. No one i know in my neighborhood patronizes since it reopened. Or they did once and were appalled. Billy's is a threat to public safety. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ned Gaffaney

RECEIVED

MAY 12 2023

CITY CLERK

Wednesday May 10, 2023

Dear Licensing Board,

I've lived in the Summit neighborhood for 28 years; I've always felt proud of where I live, and I feel it was a great place to raise my three children.

It was safe, people watched out for one another. I believe that we still do watch out for one another, and this is a part of the reason I'm writing to you. What you decide will affect the safety of the neighborhood and the patrons of this establishment.

Billy's was once a great neighborhood restaurant I could visit with friends after tennis, or on a warm weekend afternoon to enjoy a beer outside. I've enjoyed St. Patrick's Day there, and it's where my surprise 50th birthday party took place. There was never a fear of someone getting hurt. That's of course no longer the situation.

The ownership changed, and Billy's has become a much different place. I have not gone back to Billy's because of the gunshots and violence that's happened there. As a matter of fact, I will not even risk a walk past Billy's after dark. I don't know what went wrong with the place, but it's now a location to avoid. Neighbors share stories of hearing the gunshots after dark, even bullets penetrating their nearby homes. There has been an escalation of violence, and neighbors are afraid. We citizens deserve to feel safe in our homes and on our streets. I've heard the gunshots while laying in bed at night and texted my nearby friends who heard the same.

I strongly urge you to not issue them a new liquor license.

Regards,



Hugh Dillon

Cell 651-428-3217

Hugh Dillon
1058 Fairmont Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105-3122

MINNEAPOLIS MN 553

10 MAY 2023 PM 2 L



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

55102-163599



From: [William Moyers](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy"s
Date: Friday, May 12, 2023 8:16:30 PM

I am a homeowner, taxpayer, and law-abiding citizen of St. Paul, having lived in the same house on Fairmount Avenue for the past 28 years. I reside a few blocks from Grand Avenue and Victoria. This intersection has become a danger-zone, especially at night. I have no doubt a big reason why is the irresponsible actions of the owners of Billy's bar. For this reason I oppose any renewal or extension of current licenses allowing the owners to serve alcohol to their customers.

Thank you for your consideration.

William C. Moyers
873 Fairmount Avenue
St. Paul, MN

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [charles drayton](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery & Bar
Date: Friday, May 12, 2023 9:20:19 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I offer these brief comments only due to the violence that has been plaguing Billy's and the immediate surroundings since they reopened under new ownership. People have been shot, a person died on Grand Ave right across the street - due to a gun shot, and multiple bullets have gone through windows and entered into innocent, personal residences. Unfortunately these new owners most face the consequences of not being able to control the actions of their patrons, they have had ample time. Enough is enough. Where there's smoke there's fire, you don't want the blood on your hands when more kids die or are permanently disfigured at this corner, due to this business operating.

Sincerely

Chuck Drayton
8xx Linwood Ave.
Saint Paul MN 55105

From: [Mary Pat Ingwell](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's License Application/Renewal
Date: Friday, May 12, 2023 10:11:42 PM

Hello,

I am writing in response to the application for a license renewal for Billy's on Grand.

I have been a resident of this neighborhood for the last 27 years. We have been in our current house for the last 19 years. Prior to Covid, this had been a wonderful, walkable "lifestyle" neighborhood with no concerns for safety. I can sadly say this is no longer the case. Billy's and it's clientele has contributed to the demise of this Grand avenue area. We can no longer walk at night on Grand - there are stabbings and shootings (we can hear the shooting from our home in summer with the windows open), drag racing, drunken screaming at bar time, etc. We used to frequent Billy's prior to this ownership, we would bring our kids, we would bring people from out of town to Billy's. We enjoyed years on the patio. Now we are not welcome. When ownership first changed hands, many of us in the neighborhood of course wanted to support the new owner so we went to Billy only to be met with outright hostility, we would not be waited on, and it was obvious our business was not welcome. Many of the young adult "kids" went to Billy's in the evening, but that quickly stopped as it was unsafe, they were harrassed and it became scary. This business is holding our once beautiful area hostage with the violence and criminal behavior.

Why on earth would a business that is the root of bartime shootings, stabbings, and other violent actions be allowed to renew their liquor license? It makes no sense. We can't turn things around until crime is not rewarded or blatantly ignored.

Respectfully,

Mary Pat and David Ingwell

Ingwell Communications

Mary Pat Ingwell
943 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105
612-839-5154
mpi@ingwellcommunications.com
www.ingwellcommunications.com

From: [Larry M Bogolub](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Do NOT Renew Billy's Liquor License
Date: Saturday, May 13, 2023 8:00:43 AM

St. Pau Licensing Bureau,

I am a St. Paul resident. Please do not renew Billy's Liquor License. Billy's is a dangerous threat to our community. If the license is not renewed the safety of the community will improve. No more shootings. We must work and do everything we can to reduce gun violence.

Thank You

Larry Bogolub
1424 Lincoln Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105

From: [Karen Schlaefer](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: I oppose Billy's license Application
Date: Saturday, May 13, 2023 8:02:34 AM

I oppose Billy's license Application

I live and work in the neighborhood and the crime is very unsettling. I found a bullet in my backyard at 916 Lincoln. I hear cars racing on the street late at night. the recent shootings outside Billy's are just unacceptable! They've had plenty of warnings and still can't control the behavior of their clients shut it down before something. Horrible happens.

Karen Schlaefer
RE/MAX RESULTS
651-338-1963
karen.schlaefer@results.net

From: [Mallory Lund](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Saturday, May 13, 2023 11:49:25 AM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

We live very very close to Billy's and yet again another shooting exchange again on a weekend night. Bar close is so often gunfire exchange time. We have been here less than a year and have had gunshots outside of our window MULTIPLE times at bar close hour for them. I have called the police to report the gun shells all over our walkway between apartment buildings. When the hell are they going to figure this out and stop putting residents, businesses and your own patrons in danger? I have college aged siblings that were talking about going there and I told them absolutely not because I don't want them in danger of being shot with how often things just pop off there. How about close earlier, have patrol around, something, please! Seriously, PLEASE!! Billy's is pumping out alcohol and has become a go to hub for dangerous and illegal activity.

People regularly leave Billy's and walk down our alley to smoke weed behind our garage. Which our alley is shared with a rehab facility. We constantly have broken alcohol bottles after the party ends in our walk ways. The owners blatantly do not care about good service, quality food, or anything other than being a party spot making money at the cost of everyone's safety. When we moved here we were excited to have a place near by to go to, we tried going there 3 different times and saw first hand how terrible service and food was. Managers and staff have no service for patrons, managers hang out drinking.

Having a liquor license comes with a responsibility to patrons, businesses and the community. They have time and time again abused that responsibility with over served people that leave at bar close and make chaos outside.

Please do not approve. This needs to stop. At what point does something happen finally for the problems happening to be taken seriously.

Thank you for taking the time to read about our experience and concerns.

Mallory Lund

--

Mallory Lund

From: p.j.schuster@att.net
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Objection to License 20230000453
Date: Saturday, May 13, 2023 2:01:17 PM

Legislative Hearing Officer,

I strongly object to DWD Group LLC (doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand) obtaining business license 20230000453.

My wife and I have lived in Saint Paul just over two blocks from Billy's for more than 30 years. In that time, we raised a family and frequented Billy's on Grand for casual drop-in meals, for after-tennis evening beers, for high-school hockey fundraising events, and for celebrations with friends and family. In the past we have also personally rented the back room more than once for celebrations of a graduate degree and of a neighbor and good friend's birthday.

Unfortunately, the new owners have demonstrated time and time again that they don't care about the neighborhood that they should be serving, but only about their own personal interests. The bar has become a hangout for drug dealers and gang members, with all the unsavory behaviors and illegal activities that come along with it. Frequent fights, obscene language, shouting, loud vehicles, and gunfire at and near the establishment has cast a pall on the neighborhood and on all the solid, safe, conscientious businesses that line Grand Avenue.

I'm sure the owners will deny that their establishment is responsible, but as a long-time resident of the area it is easy to see the impact that their management has created. We have personally heard the increase in gunshots at and near the establishment as well as in the nearby surrounding area. We have friends and neighbors who, by coincidence of living nearby to the establishment, have had guns fired directly outside their homes and people knocking on their doors late at night. Parents and children continue to be affected by these events. Gunfire has increased so much that a Shot-Spotter was just recently installed on my block and on Grand Avenue surrounding the establishment.

The establishment was once a cherished neighborhood staple but has been re-branded by the criminal clientele that is being actively welcomed by the establishment's current management and practices. Gather Eatery and Bar (formerly Billy's on Grand) should NOT be allowed to obtain a business license.

Paul Schuster
651-222-6879

From: [Betsy Turner](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Fwd: The application for Billy's liquor license
Date: Sunday, May 14, 2023 10:52:04 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Betsy Turner** <btclip22@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, May 14, 2023 at 10:09 PM
Subject: The application for Billy's liquor license
To: <LH-Licensing@cistpaul.mn.us>

I'm just appalled at the behavior at Billy's ,and since I live just a block away, I'm definitely affected in a negative way ! Yet more gunshots were heard from outside the place, just a week ago, and it's most unsettling, let me tell you ! We pay heavy taxes to live in this neighborhood, and we don't deserve to have a nearby bar/ restaurant that draws unsavory patrons who jeopardize the safety of our neighborhood ! I would say that they have over and over acted inappropriately and now should reap the consequences of their irresponsible actions of leniency. How much negative behavior is ENOUGH ?!

Please vote, No, to their liquor license request.

Sincerely, Betsy Turner- 51 S. Avon St./ St. Paul, Mn. 55105

From: [Dana Johnson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy"s on Grand
Date: Friday, May 12, 2023 3:29:00 PM

Due to their inability to manage violence and gunshots resulting from those persons frequenting their institution, we request that Billy's liquor license be re-issued only after the following conditions are met for the duration of the license:

- the establishment is open no later than 12 midnight on any night
- hire plainclothes officers and additional security for the premises and the every entire block adjacent to Billy's
- install metal detectors before entry to the premises, including the outdoor patio to prevent guns on the premises.
- Enforce noise codes after 10PM daily.
- hire trash and waste management companies to clear debris on the premises and off premises on every adjacent entire block
- establish a fund to repair neighborhood property damaged from gunshot and other behaviors which occur within 2 hours of closing time.
- Hire security to walk patrons to their vehicles and remain with them until they and their vehicle have left the premises and the block.
- hire extra St Paul police to park on Grand for four hours (within 2 hours of closing time, across the street from Billy's to encourage patrons to enter leave the establishment without violating law or breaking code (like noise violations, etc).
- purchase additional liability insurance to cover the damage to persons or property from any gunshots or crimes committed within any adjacent block and within 2 hours of closing time.
- change liquor license to 3.2 beer only
- hire St. Paul police to walk a beat on Grand the immediately adjacent blocks to Billy's every day from 8PM-4AM.

Thank you,
MJ Spencer,
Lincoln Ave resident.

From: [Jones, Jack](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License Application for DWD Group at 857 Grand Ave
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:23:41 PM

To All Concerned

Our family has owned property in the Grand/Victoria neighborhood for over two decades. We currently live at 57 Avon St. S. # 31.

I was awakened Saturday night by gunfire, which took place at Billy's. I viewed the police car, which stopped traffic on Grand after the shots were fired. This experience is unnerving with direct impact on the safety of a stable and enjoyable urban neighborhood. This incident is not the first -- rather a continuation of alarming disturbances from Billy's. I view them as bad neighbors.

I adamantly oppose the application for a license for DWD Group. Renaming the establishment will not change anything. ***Please deny the license application for the sake of neighborhood safety.***

Respectively,
John R. Jones, PhD
573-864-5094

From: Jones, Jack <JonesJ@missouri.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 6:11 PM
To: Rebecca Noecker <Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: The degraded situation on Grand Ave, just east of Victoria

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

Councilperson Noecker,
I'm reaching out to you for relief from the ongoing issues with Billy's on Grand.

As background -- my family has been associated with this patch of real estate since the late 90s. Home ownership includes 2 different properties on Lincoln Ave and our current residence -- 57 Avon St. S. #31. The area has been an ideal urban location, which historically has been safe and vibrant.

The current operation of Billy's on Grand has changed that situation. They have been disappointing neighbors and have brought gunfire to our location. You're aware of the string of problems associated with this business. The most recent was gunfire at/about 1:25 am Sunday morning (7 May). I was awakened by what -- in sound sleep -- seemed like rapid knocking on our door. That seemed unreasonable given we live on the 3rd floor of a condo building. Quickly, I realized that gunfire woke me up. I went to the kitchen window to see a police car blocking Grand Ave., with lights flashing. Indeed, there was gunfire and it was likely from a modified gun to allow rapid fire. This incident is not the first gunfire associated with Billy's on Grand -- in fact a bullet came through a window in the adjacent building.

The Billy's on Grand experiment has failed. There is no evidence that the measures taken by the operators have changed the situation. It's not more safe.

You make comments about gunfire at El Alamo...they are pasted below. I hope those feelings apply to the situation in our neighborhood.

Please do all in your power to pull the license from Billy's and certainly do not support and new license with a fresh name. That will not change the situation. Ample time has passed for measurable change in the behavior of their patrons. I ask -- among the numerous restaurants and bars along Grand Ave. between Lexington and Dale are there recorded incidents of firearms being discharged or the need for police monitoring stations (currently in place in front of Billy's)?

Please help stop the crime and violence in our neighborhood. Please apply your values associated with El Alamo to our situation. Pull the license and do deny a new license. Something is quite wrong with the

operation of Billy's.

Respectively,
John R. Jones, PhD
57 Avon St. S. # 31
573-864-5094

Your quote below...

"We're talking about bullets, and I can't be understanding when your business is such a threat to the community that I represent. ... I really believe ... the chronic and repeated history of criminal activity in and around the bar — and frankly, the public health threat to the neighborhood and the immediate neighbors and the community, as a whole — justify this (revocation)."

From: [Brenda Hardy](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Cc: [#CI-StPaul_Ward2](#)
Subject: NO to Billy's License Application
Date: Monday, May 15, 2023 9:34:02 AM

Licensing Board:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Billy's request for a license.

My husband and I have owned and lived at 796 Summit Avenue for 27 years.

Over the past two years there has been an increase in gunshots, typically around bar-closing time. On April 7th rounds of gunshots resulted in private property damage. Our next door neighbor's bedroom window was shot out, while our son laid in his bedroom with windows about 15 feet away. Over 20 casings were found.

In another recent instance shots were fired at Billy's. Both my husband and I heard the gunshots.

Cars with tinted windows cruise past Billy's and up and down Avon continually on nice summer evenings with thumping rap music.

We welcome and support small businesses and restaurants in our area. We used to go to Billy's occasionally for an evening burger but it is no longer a welcoming place to take our family.

Unfortunately the current owner of Billy's has refused to acknowledge that his customers may be responsible for the gunshots.

So please vote no. Help us protect our neighborhood so we feel safe. I don't want to live in a neighborhood where I don't feel safe walking a block home after dark from a dinner at Café Latte. I don't even want my young adult sons walking back through our alley after dark to pick up Punch Pizzas. We need your help to send the message that business owners are responsible for their clientele and what their customers do when they leave the establishment.

Thank you,
Brenda Hardy
Cell 651-336-0931

L/D/C/R: 0

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From: [Terry Cullen](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand
Date: Monday, May 15, 2023 11:23:18 PM

Hello,

Please do not approve Billy's liquor license. No one in any neighborhood in Saint Paul deserves to live in fear of gunfire. There have been 5 or more incidents of Billy's patrons shooting guns in our neighborhood. The most recent being automatic gunfire at Billy's itself. Billy's has been given every chance to find a way to not attract patrons that fire guns before and after leaving Billy's. It hasn't worked. As a taxpayer I urge you not to approve this liquor license. The city will end up having to pay after something horrible happens that was completely preventable.

Terry Cullen
651-983-9431

From: [Charles Kolstad](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License #20230000453 Objection
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9:53:35 AM

To whom it may concern,

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery & Bar (previously known as Billy's on Grand) obtaining business license #20230000453.

I believe that violence in that area has increased significantly recently and the bar is only contributing to it by staying open late and serving alcohol.

--

Best Regards,
Charles Kolstad
507-202-7957

From: [Jeff Young](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy"s licensing
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:36:56 AM

Hello,

I am writing today to oppose Billy's relicensing. The management has shown themselves to be irresponsible with regards to caring for the safety of the neighborhood.

As you already know, there have been some serious gunfire and fights at Billy's. This is well-known. (And as with all things, alcohol and firearms never mix.)

Billy's has had several chances to clean up their act, but have failed to do so. It is now time to pull their license for good. I would welcome a more sedate establishment in the same space.

Thanks,
Jeff Young
753 Lincoln Ave
651-226-6666

From: [Natalie Quinn](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Liquor License Request - 857 Grand Avenue
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:04:16 AM

Dear Legislative Hearing Officer-

As a long-standing business owner of more than 40 years on the corner of Grand Avenue and Victoria we are concerned about the liquor license request due to the previous dangerous activities that have occurred at 857 Grand Avenue. We believe that the businesses on Grand Avenue should be cultivating a safe neighborhood where businesses can thrive & customers can engage with businesses in a non-fearful or threatening way. We want our customers to not feel intimidated or fearful coming to our business and all the other wonderful Grand Avenue businesses. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to us.

Thank you – Natalie Quinn

Natalie Quinn

Business Office | ☎ 651-292-1665

Cell | 651-269-9735

Cafe Latte | Bread & Chocolate

From: [Dana Wood](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9:47:10 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joe Smith-Cunnien](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's License Application
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:07:19 PM

To whom it may concern,

I live a few blocks from Billy's and I am vehemently opposed to the renewing of their license. I think any reasonable person can see that the amount of police calls, disturbances, and gun incidents that has occurred under the current management should restrict them from being able to renew their license.

Joe

651-528-1752

From: [Jessica Smith-cunnien](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand License Renewal
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:13:59 PM

Hello,

Please don't renew the license for Billy's on Grand. It has become a great disturbance to the neighborhood, and I think their track record under the current management is plenty of reason to deny their license renewal. I live a few blocks away, and I'm scared to even go near there at night because of the incidents that have occurred there.

Thanks for your consideration,

Jess

651-226-5946

From: [Judy Doucette](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: I oppose Billy's License Application
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:26:53 PM

We object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Wood/Doucette Families
(209) 402-4437

From: [Dana Wood](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: i oppose billy"s license
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:20:34 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Margaret Wood
(612) 578-7981

From: [Cam Bronson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: I oppose Billy's License application
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:16:56 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Judy Doucette
(651) 756-1759

From: [Lee Sexton](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Deny Billy's on grand license
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 8:17:19 AM

I'm writing to you to urge you to deny the owners of Billy's on Grand Ave a new liquor license. The business has created an unsafe environment in the neighborhood and I have no faith that the current owners strategy to rebrand is anything other than a ruse to get a license. Over and over again promises have been made to make things better yet violence and shootings continue.

Further, I have personally witnessed the operators lie to the public in meetings with the community, denying the validity of events, only to be shown documentation and then cry foul and racism. The type of behavior exhibited by the patrons and owners of this establish have no place in our community. Please do the responsible thing before another murder occurs as the result of the negligence of these operators.

Lee sexton
966 summit ave
St. Paul, mn

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Molly Quinlan](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 9:56:55 AM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

As a mom of two young children who walk on grand daily, we are committed to the safety of our neighborhood and profoundly opposed to allowing Billy's/Gather/DWD to continue to operate as they've proved they cannot do so safely.

Gun violence is the number one killer of children, and we have the opportunity to make an impact on that violence by denying DWD a license—I demand action to lower gun violence in our neighborhood, and I expect any Ward 1 city council person I support to pledge to do the same and to publicly renounce DWD and state their position on this issue.

Thank you for taking action to stop gun violence.

Sincerely,
Molly Hickey
1012 Portland Ave, 55104
651-247-2586

From: [Karin Roof](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Cc: [Karin Roof](#); [Rich Roof](#); dr.ruhland@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Another important safety issue for our community - GUN VIOLENCE ON GRAND AVENUE - PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 10:05:34 AM

Dear Legislative Hearing Officer,

Please see my public comment below. I am very concerned about gun violence on Grand Avenue, and even posted this notice to my Facebook post, but my husband made me take it down so as not to create any misinterpretation.

We need you to lead the process to keep St. Paul safe, through appropriate business licensing in appropriate locations.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if I can help any further. We appreciate your leadership.

Karin Roof
1045 Portland Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104
Mobile 612 271-8438
(resident since March 1998)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Karin Roof** <karin.roof@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, May 17, 2023 at 8:54 AM
Subject: Re: Another important safety issue for our community - GUN VIOLENCE ON GRAND AVENUE - PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT
To: Neighborhood List

URGENT: ST. PAUL NEIGHBORS - PUBLIC COMMENT REQUIRED BY MAY
19th re: GUN VIOLENCE ON GRAND AVENUE

For all of us living in the Summit University / Summit Hill neighborhood, we have been concerned with the increase of gun violence on Grand Avenue. As recently as last Saturday, there was shooting originating from Billy's on Grand. Shots have been associated with Billy's late night dance club hours. Our veterinarian at St. Paul Pet, Dr. Eric Ruhland who lives on Summit behind Billy's, had a bullet go through his bedroom window during one of these incidents.

Analogously, in our experience in Colorado, when CO legalized marijuana, the city of Breckenridge made the call that all marijuana retailers needed to relocate off main street - this was difficult for the one medical marijuana storefront at the time, but now, all dispensaries are on airport road. I have no issues with and in fact welcome legalized

marijuana, but feel that for a family-friendly shopping street, is appropriate to move dispensaries off main street. Similarly, St. Paul needs to ensure there are guidelines for business activity across St. Paul.

We need to help our St. Paul leadership and government align around the same decisions regarding Grand Avenue. It is a residential, retail, family-friendly street, and we need to have policies to protect citizens, regulating businesses as required. If Billy's is unable to run its restaurant with the safety of all in mind, we need the city to govern it through its business licensing policies.

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT:

OPPOSE BILLY'S LICENSE APPLICATION

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

Submit comments
(with your telephone number)
in writing to:

Legislative Hearing Officer
310 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 5 5102

Or email to:
LH-Licensing@ci.stpaul.mn.us

DEADLINE: MAY 19, 2023

Scan the
QR to
send an
email!



Mobile 612 271-8438

|

From: [Becky Rose](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: licensing of Billy's on Grand
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 10:58:04 AM

Please be more restrictive of Billy's on Grand (or of its new version, Gather Eatery and Bar). I have heard that restricting the business hours significantly would be a step in the right direction.

I have lived two blocks from Grand Avenue for 30 years. I can't believe that there are gunshots a few blocks from my house. The other restaurants on Grand Avenue are not associated with violence, as far as I know.

Becky Rose
983 Portland Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [McGough, Kacy \(Minneapolis\)](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand Liquor License
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 1:05:36 PM

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the current liquor and entertainment license request submitted by Billy's on Grand. I am a Summit Hill resident and live 3 blocks from Billy's today and although I have enjoyed being a patron in the past, it is clear that in recent years Billy's has become a hotspot for violence. Although I appreciate the owners recent pitch regarding plans to renovate and reinvent, this feels like a last ditch effort to push through with an approval with no guarantee of any actual changes. The current owner has had plenty of time and opportunities to make much needed changes. We need to take a firm stance to make our community a safe place for all to live and congregate.

I implore the city to not grant a license to Billy's on Grand. Although I am fully supportive of small business owners and would not want to see yet another Grand Avenue business shuttered, it is time to give someone else a chance at utilizing that spectacular location on Grand Avenue to its full potential.

Kacy McGough, 687 Lincoln Avenue.

Kacy McGough
Director, Benefits Outsourcing

WTW
8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard, Suite 1700 | Minneapolis, MN 55437-3837
Phone: 612.559.5585
kacy.mcgough@wtwco.com
wtwco.com

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From: [Hartnett, James J.](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Liquor license for Billy's on Grand
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 1:17:16 PM

Dear Licensing Board: As a long-time resident of 1052 Lincoln Avenue, Saint Paul, I write to oppose the issuance of a new liquor license for Billy's on Grand, or at a minimum, a restriction on Billy's operating hours to no later than 10 PM. As you are no doubt aware, Billy's on Grand has become a local magnet for criminal activity, with drug-dealing going on in the parking lots—in broad daylight—and with Billy's employees more interested in hanging out with the dealers than serving patrons. Gunshots both on and around Billy's property are now a routine occurrence.

While the owners of Billy's have disclaimed responsibility for the violence, certain facts cannot be disputed:

1. Post-pandemic, most bar / restaurants in the Grand Avenue area (e.g., Groveland Tap, Red Rabbit, Iron Ranger) close much earlier than pre-pandemic (typically around 10 PM), primarily due to a shortage of qualified employees willing to work late hours.
 - a. From personal observation, Billy's has not solved the "lack of qualified employees" problem; rather, it simply chooses to operate late into the night without sufficient qualified employees.
 - b. The result is over-serving of patrons, a lack of adequate security, and a general sense that Billy's is out of control in the late-night hours.
2. Because most bars / restaurants now close earlier than in the pre-pandemic era, most patrons have adjusted their habits to accommodate this new reality. Only hard-core drinkers and people looking for trouble are out and about past midnight, looking for a place to get drunk and use drugs.
3. Because there are fewer places open to accommodate late-night mischief, Billy's receives a concentration of the criminal element as its patrons in the late night hours.
4. The vast majority of bars / restaurants on Grand Avenue have figured out how to stay in business without serving patrons long past 10 PM. There is no reason that Billy's cannot do the same.

In sum, while I regret that a Grand Avenue institution that I used to regularly patronize has morphed into a dangerous gang bar, that sadly is the case. The current owners of Billy's have proven themselves incapable of maintaining an orderly place of business; they cannot (or will not) control what goes on in their establishment and in its immediate surroundings (parking lots, alley, etc.). Billy's on Grand is now a blight on Grand Avenue and the surrounding neighborhood. It should not be granted a new liquor license or, at a minimum, it should have its hours of operation severely restricted, to no later than 10 PM.

Regards,

Jim Hartnett

1052 Lincoln Avenue

From: [Michelle Kohanek](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's On Grand Ave License Application
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 3:12:43 PM

To Whom it may concern / Legislative Hearing Officer~

I live less than a block away from Billy's on Grand with my front porch on Grand Ave as well as work at two establishments on Grand Ave. My back yard faces the parking lot behind Chipotle / where most of the Billy's guests park at night.

When I moved to Grand Ave in 2020, I chose to live in this area due to the safety of the community. I now am afraid to be outside of my home after the midnight hour with the almost guaranteed sound of gun shots almost every Friday & Saturday night on the street. There are nights that I hear so much fighting after bar close that I don't sleep in my own bed for fear that a bullet may ricochet into my window as I am on ground level. I know that sounds aggressive but it is the truth. I no longer walk home from work if I am working a closing shift and I only work a few blocks away. Friday & Saturday nights I tend to turn down / off the tv just to listen to the fights escalate that usually end in gun shots in the neighborhood.

I don't believe that Billy's should lose their complete license as I do not fear the day traffic and is a staple to the Grand neighborhood. I do however believe that they should shut down at midnight as that is when the "witching hour" tends to begin. The crowd doesn't seem to be able to handle themselves / the liquor after that hour. Nothing good comes of the night at that hour but violence.

Thank you sincerely for your time~

Michelle Kohanek
952-303-2833

From: [Terri Henneman](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 5:18:55 PM

Dear Officer,

In the 16 years that I have lived near Billy's on Grand, there have been so many problems with customers of the restaurant causing problems in my neighborhood. It is a wild and disruptive establishment. A few weeks ago, there was a shot fired through a window of a house on Summit located near the corner of Summit and Avon, presumably from a fight that broke out in the alley behind Billy's, which is located a half block away. A week ago shots were fired outside of Billy's during the early morning hours. Women who work at Pottery Barn have complained to me in the past about drunk men from Billy's coming into their store in the evening. This establishment, by whatever name it's trying to go by, is contributing to me and my family feeling unsafe in our neighborhood. Please deny their liquor license.

I'm writing that I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Sincerely,
Terri Henneman, owner of 629 Summit Avenue, St Paul 55105

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nick Jensen](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 6:53:18 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

This place is a disaster. Constant gun violence in the neighborhood with zero effort to curb it.

From: [Lynne Carothers](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on grand
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 9:44:12 PM

Do. Not license Billy's on Geand !!! It is becoming dangerous and I won't go to grand Ave after dark any longer !
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Peter Caritas](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: On Sale license application for DWD Group LLC License Number: 20230000453
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023 6:52:05 AM

Dear Legislative Hearing Officer,

I am writing concerning the Liquor On Sale license application for DWD Group LLC for the property at 857 Grand Ave; License Number: 20230000453. I live at 63 Avon St. S. with my wife and my daughter. In the past 3 years we've experienced several shootings and countless assaults, most of which have been tied directly to patrons of Billy's on Grand.

In the past year alone:

3/5/22 Male shot in the chest. Suspect chased a witness down in his car and crashed into her at Milton and Grand.

3/25/22 Woman assaulted, dragged from her car and beaten. Avon and Grand

4/3/22 Woman assaulted by man at Victoria and Grand

4/8/22 Shots fired at Avon and Grand

5/15/22 Person assaulted Victoria and Grand

6/19/22 Gun battle on Victoria and Grand. Bullet through window at 51 Avon St. S. narrowly missing my neighbor in his kitchen.

8/5/22 Woman assaulted at Billy's on Grand

8/19/22 Woman assaulted at Billy's on Grand

8/21/22 Gun battle on Grand Ave continued in the alley between Grand and Lincoln.

10/10/22 Weapons Discharge Lincoln and Victoria

11/5/22 Weapons Discharge Grand and Victoria

4/7/23 Summit and Avon 30-40 shots fired. Bullet through resident's window

5/7/23 Gun battle Victoria and Grand. Bullet through resident's window

That's 8 shots fired incidents within a block of 857 Grand within the past 14 months. Is Victoria and Grand the most dangerous intersection in St. Paul?

At an April 2022 Summit Hill Association meeting, former Western District Commanders Josh Lego and Jennifer Corcoran were in attendance and gave evidence that other bars with similar issues of shootings and violent assaults such as Ted's Recreation on Larpenteur, voluntarily changed their closing time to midnight and the issues were quickly resolved. I asked Mr.

Spearman if he would be willing to close at midnight rather than 2am. He stated that he was willing to make that change. Later that summer at another SHA meeting, Mr. Spearman said he would change his closing time to 1am. I'm not sure if he ever followed through on that promise, but recent Facebook posts advertise that they are currently open until 2am. And the problems continue.

There is an outstanding violation against the current liquor license which is the 3rd violation since Mr. Spearman took over running the business. That violation has never been heard by the City Council and no action has been taken on it. That violation should be heard before a new application is considered.

Mr Spearman has consistently shown that he is unwilling to work with the neighbors who live near his business or follow the recommendations of the Summit Hill Association or the St. Paul Police Department. His business operations present a clear danger to the neighborhood and it is unfair to the residents and other businesses who live and operate here.

For these reasons, I oppose the application for Liquor On Sale license for DWD Group LLC.

Sincerely,
Peter Caritas
63 Avon St. S., #38
St. Paul, MN 55105

From: [John Wood](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Objection to license 20230000453
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023 12:02:57 PM

Hello,

I am writing to object to the DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, formerly known as Billy's on Grand. There has been too much violent crime associated with this establishment. They are located in a primarily residential area. It has become dangerous for nearby residents especially after midnight.

Respectfully,

John Wood
1042 Summit Ave
St Paul, MN
Sent from my iPad

From: [kevin johnson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Please find attached a letter in opposition to the DWD Group LLC liquor license request
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023 12:12:02 PM
Attachments: [May 15 comment to Leg Hearing Office on Billy license app.docx](#)

Sincerely,

Kevin Johnson
51 Avon St S #23
St. Paul, MN 55105
(cell) 320.224.4533

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

Re: DWD Group LLC License Application

Dear Mr. Fischbach,

I'm writing in opposition to the request by DWD Group LLC for a liquor license application for Gather Eatery & Bar at 857 Grand Avenue, St. Paul.

My name is Kevin Johnson. My wife Jean and I reside at 51 Avon St. S, #23. We moved here in late 2017 from Hutchinson, Mn. We were delighted to find a vibrant residential/commercial neighborhood to call home.

The convenient proximity of auto service, grocery, hardware, dental care, eyewear, pharmacy, gift shops, bookstores, on and off-sale liquor availability, a wide variety of other retail and service shops, and so many dining options made this choice of residence an easy one.

Many of the residents of the nineteen-unit condo association where we live have become good friends.

Our second floor condo overlooks Grand Avenue. Our front living room windows face east, with a view down Grand toward Brasa, Punch Pizza and Caribou Coffee.

Our kitchen windows at the rear of the building face west toward Victoria Street, with a view of Bread & Chocolate, Victoria Crossing, and Billy's on Grand.

There are fourteen buildings along Grand Avenue between Avon and Victoria. While businesses are an attractive feature, as I've already made clear, eleven of the fourteen buildings are places that we and our neighbors call home.

For the majority of the business day, there is nothing unusual about Billy's. Sadly, that cannot be said about it later in the evening, especially during weekends.

After most of the businesses along Grand have closed for the day, Billy's begins ramping up, for lack of a better term, as a nightclub. The food service ends. Alcohol does not. Those already there continue to socialize and drink. New arrivals come to socialize and drink.

Socializing is fine. Drunken socializing increases the likelihood of problems as the documented record of complaints and police responses clearly shows. (Some) socializing combined with drinking combined with guns has been a toxic and dangerous mix. As a result, we've come to dread the approach of weekends.

As events and police records clearly show, the owner of Billy's is operating in a manner and with a business model that is unsafe, and frankly, out of place in any location.

Specifically, management of this establishment over the past two years

has failed to demonstrate it is capable of maintaining a safe environment for residents living in this mixed-use neighborhood.

Does Billy's management train bartenders to refuse drinks to patrons who have had too much already? Are those patrons told to leave if they object to being refused service? Do they leave and come back angry at being refused service? Do they come back carrying a gun?

Does late-night socializing mixed with alcohol build tensions that lead to conflict? We can tell you that we have witnessed those conflicts spilling onto Grand Avenue. From verbal argument, physical confrontation, and escalation to the level of gunfire, we have seen it all.

And it does not remain confined to Billy's immediate premises or small parking area. Which means the requirements and conditions associated with the license application are not capable of addressing the negative impact Billy's is having on this neighborhood we live in.

Whatever the situations are that lead to elevated tensions, even if management enforces the operating requirements associated with having a liquor license, the fact remains that patrons attracted to Billy's for late-night socializing and drinking will continue to pose an unacceptable and elevated risk to the safety of those of us living here.

In fact, during the most recent incident of gunfire early on Sunday May 7, the lives of Billy's own staff were in jeopardy as bullets crashed through one of the windows overlooking their patio along Grand Avenue.

Operating 'as usual' guarantees more of the same outcomes. If nothing changes, nothing changes. Our experience is that Billy's has created an environment with outcomes it cannot control.

The problems have persisted. What additional action can the owner take? If it were within their power to do something that would prevent the dangers from developing, would they not have already done so?

Postscript: The Summit Hill Association conducted an online session Tuesday evening, May 16 regarding Billy's application for a new liquor license. The meeting was for the purpose of gathering public comment prior to making a recommendation to the city of St. Paul.

Mr. Spearman of DWD Group LLC made a presentation outlining plans to re-brand the business. Unfortunately, comments over the lengthy follow-on discussions from Mr. Spearman and several other speakers continue to demonstrate an unwillingness to acknowledge and address the root of the problem.

They want to keep catering to a late-night group that comes to drink and socialize long after food service has ended. DWD Group LLC owners and marketing consultants cite the need for profitability as the reason to continue the practice.

Public Safety and SPPD personnel have repeatedly stated during the drawn-out Billy's deliberations the past two years that disturbances and violence in and near St. Paul drinking establishments are directly linked to late closing hours.

As the May 7 incident appears to demonstrate, DWD Group values profitability even over the safety of their own employees. Working with neighbors and "elevating" the business model rings hollow as a result.

Sincerely,

Kevin Johnson
(cell) 320.224.4533

From: [Mark Larkins](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#); *CI-StPaul LH-Licensing
Subject: BILLY'S LICENSE
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023 2:40:35 PM

Mr. Weiner et al:

I attended the. Tuesday, May 16, Summit Hill Association meeting regarding Billy's licensure .
My wife, Kathy, also provided comments.

We share the following views: (based on 20 years of living in the neighborhood and having a business on Grand Avenue)

I am currently an SHA board member and offer these comments as a dissenting view to what I feel will be the SHA position on this issue.

There were very significant comments regarding violent behavior and gunfire that cannot be dismissed by stating that:

- the entire country is experiencing these problems
- these activities are occurring outside of Billy's premises
- or as one individual on the SHA put it, perhaps we are not accustomed to the sound of gunfire in the neighborhood
- all of these occurrences were before the current owners took over
- Billy's is a victim and the SPPD is not doing enough to protect them

and finally in the bottom of the 9th inning , the game has changed with the reimagining of Billys while a crime involving a shooting is being investigated.

In all fairness, grant a one year license with closing at midnight. Mr. Spearman will be accountable for adverse activities. Maintain external surveillance cameras. Monitor this closely. The stakes are high. People have had their homes shot at. We need to dissect out the causes for this and sift out the confounding arguments.

This part of St. Paul is becoming a "hot spot" and our complacency cannot be used as an excuse. Someone will get killed as a result of not radically altering this trajectory. We cannot be complicit with that lack of logic and judgement. It is simply misguided with no facts to support it. Weepy pleas for understanding are insufficient. I am tired of the wanton subterfuge being laid on the people who live and work in this community to defend this proposal on the instructions of outside "consultants."

MARK LARKINS

612-804-9751
larkinsneurosurgery@gmail.com

From: emilymiotke72@gmail.com
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023 2:54:16 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

I am a resident across the street in 834 Grand Ave. My bedroom faces the street and I do not sleep in it on Saturday nights anymore because I am afraid of being hit by stray bullets. Time after time it happens again. They have proven they are not able to responsibly manage their patrons. As a flight attendant I occasionally have to come home at late hours, my roommates and I text eachother to remind eachother to park in the back of the house and not use the front doors on the weekend or go on Grand. We are scared of the violence that seems to only be a Billy's problem. I am afraid of the drunk drivers, the late at night tire squealing out front, the arguments on the street and of course the sound of gun shots. They should not be allowed to renew their liquor license. How many people have to die? How many times does my house need to be shot at? This should not be allowed to happen in our neighborhood. They have been given too many chances. I would love to feel safe in my home again.

Thank you for reading my comments.
Emily Miotke
834 Grand Ave #4,
Saint Paul, MN 55105
6513982580

From: [E. S. Fletcher](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's Liquor License
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023 3:13:19 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am voicing my opposition to extending a new liquor license to Billy's Pub on Grand Avenue. It is drawing bad actors to the neighborhood who freely pull out their guns to resolve disputes. Since last summer, my family has started avoiding Grand-Victoria and its businesses after dark. Changes promised to the neighborhood have not occurred, and the gunfire spilling out from Billy's has only increased this spring. It's a matter of time before someone gets killed by a stray bullet. No Billy's, no bullets.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Fletcher

From: [Patrick Connolly](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery & Bar
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023 7:53:28 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing as a concerned neighbor and a citizen of St. Paul. I am writing to oppose the renewed liquor license application by DWD Group LLC currently operating Billy's on Grand on 857 Grand Ave with plans to rebrand to Gather Eatery and Bar. The increased violent crime over the last few years has been devastating to Grand Ave and the surrounding neighbors. People have been shot, consistent sounds of gun shots late night going through the windows of homes in the neighborhood.

The current management company has not operate a safe bar restaurant and ought to face the consequences of their inability to control their customers. Now is the time to take action and remove these operators from this business. It's only a matter of time before more people get hurt. Please deny this application.

Patrick Connolly
Osceola Ave
St. Paul. MN

From: [Margaret Klisch](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023 8:49:56 PM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Margaret Klisch
651-224-3041

From: [Andre Kuhn](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: License 20230000453 Objection
Date: Friday, May 19, 2023 8:13:10 AM

I object to DWD Group LLC, doing business as Gather Eatery and Bar, previously known as Billy's on Grand, obtaining business license 20230000453.

Granting their liquor license would be a clear message that the city does not care for the lives of the neighbors and patrons. I have woken up 4 times in the past year to shootouts from people leaving the bar in less than one year. The security is ineffective and is the source of noise complaints themselves as they blast music from their cars all the way to bar close. Lately the patio has an overwhelming odor of weed being smoked there as I walk by walking my dog and we are afraid to walk our dog after dark.

The police also seem afraid to go near the place until after the bullets fly. Under previous ownership I would regularly see patrol cars in the area driving through but now I never see one patrolling after sundown. The shootings always happen within an hour or 2 of bar close and there is never any police around until after the neighbors call them.

Do you want grand avenue to remain a thriving hub for small businesses or devolve into a slum where we shoot each other in the streets?

Andre kuhn

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joe Angles](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward1](#)
Subject: comments re: Billy"s on Grand license
Date: Friday, May 19, 2023 10:57:56 AM

Licensing board and Ward 1,

I am writing to submit my comments against granting or sustaining a liquor license to Billy's on Grand.

Billy's has brought in violence to an extent we have not seen in recent history, and the late night gunshots have become far too common. Whatever they are doing about security is clearly not sufficient to curb the problems, as the gun shots and police calls continue to pour in. I am aware the owners have attempted to politicize the issue. This is not politically motivated; the data speaks for itself. This is a matter of community safety. These are not the results of people who are capable of responsibly operating under a liquor license, much less an unconditional license that allows them to operate until 2am.

Best regards,
Joe Angles
762 Ashland Ave

From: [Troy Melhus](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#); [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy's on Grand Liquor License
Date: Friday, May 19, 2023 11:29:27 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this communication to express my strong opposition to the extension or renewal of the current liquor license to Billy's On Grand as it currently moves forward.

I am a neighborhood resident who lives within three blocks of Billy's On Grand, as well as a member of the Summit Hill Association District Council. As such, I have been following this ongoing discussion for several months, and even years.

I am strongly opposed to this liquor license at this time, unless significant and enforceable terms and conditions can be attached — including limited hours, significant restrictions, and terms allowing immediate license revocation in the event of any even minor infractions or violations.

The ownership group seeking the license recently gave a public presentation to the SHA Board of Directors, and the Association's Zoning and Land Use Committee, seeking SHA's endorsement for this renewal.

Based on that presentation, as well as recent events within a three-block radius of the business, I am distressed at the ownership's lack of meaningful proposals to acknowledge their role in the current crisis of this neighborhood's violence — and their, at times, even adversarial tone toward neighborhood concerns.

I do not feel their investment on Grand Avenue takes the neighborhood safety concerns with the gravity I believe it deserves.

Four observations from their presentation:

- The ownership group refuses to acknowledge that their business may be a contributing factor in the growing violence and neighborhood disruption within the 3-block radius of their business.
- The ownership group deflects responsibility onto the Grand Avenue neighborhood, its residents, and other businesses, for any problems outside of, or in proximity to, its establishment.
- The ownership bristles at compromising aspects of its business (hours, etc.) that have serious repercussions on the neighborhood as a whole.
- I have not witnessed strong support from the Saint Paul Police Department, or other agencies, to suggest there is a "good working relationship" with law enforcement and other public safety.

The challenges of this neighborhood's violence have increased significantly since the transfer of this business and liquor license. This is not anecdotal. And it is naive to believe that the business practices associated with this liquor license are not contributing factors.

Bullets are being shot into family homes and businesses. Just one bullet, through any neighborhood window, is unacceptable.

The ownership has been operating the business as a nightclub and plans to continue doing so, despite a record of issues and conflict with the neighborhood and law enforcement.

Clientele for this business are frequently idling within a multiple block radius of the business into the late evening and early morning, using illegal substances and violating noise and other ordinances — difficult if not impossible to prohibit or enforce. I know this because I live here, and I walk the neighborhood daily.

Proponents for this license renewal suggest that this behavior, and the recent issues of gunfire through people's homes, cannot be directly linked to Billy's On Grand.

I disagree. That is subjective and misleading at best.

Suffice to say: We don't have stray gunfire when businesses like the Red Balloon, Treats, Mischief or others close for the day. We don't have gunfire when food and beverage establishments with liquor licenses — such as the Lexington, Iron Ranger, Punch Pizza, Brasa or others — close for the night.

I absolutely oppose a carte blanche liquor license for a business that denies it has been a contributing factor in this change.

Liquor licenses in this city are a privilege — and one that is not easily revoked.

Granting a liquor license to this ownership group, given its recent history and record, would do irreparable damage to the Grand Avenue neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Troy Melhus
1016 Grand Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55105

From: [Lynn McDaniel](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Noecker](#); director@summithillassociation.org
Subject: License Application 20230000453 aka Billy's on Grand License application
Date: Friday, May 19, 2023 1:24:47 PM

The purpose of this email is to submit comments to the Legislative Hearing Office regarding the liquor license application noted above during the Public Comment period.

I am NOT supportive of a 1AM close for this liquor license. I am supportive of a midnight or earlier closing. I am aware of the good intentions of the applicant and the intention to “re-brand” although the re-branding, inclusive of family dining, live music, Karaoke, theme party nights and a speak-easy seem to target a variety of audiences and I’m not sure deter late night partying, which appears to be one (of many) of the issues in and around the restaurant.

Multiple health and safety issues (well documented by SPPD previously) have correlated to this business establishment, notwithstanding good intentions and change in management style. As recently as 10 days ago there was yet again gun violence that occurred at 1:30 in the morning. A closing time of 1:00 would not prevent patrons from loitering or affiliates of patrons from cruising Grand Avenue at 1:30. A 1:00am closing will have lingerers well beyond 1:00. (Note citizen comments made at SHA board meeting, who are adjacent to Billys regarding activity in the alley behind Billys and on Grand Ave.) While outside activity is not atypical for a bar, it is inconsistent with health and safety within a residential community, particularly with the rise in gun activity observed in the vicinity of the premises.

1:00am is simply too late for a residential community. The majority of other eating and bar establishments on Grand Ave have earlier closing times and/or have NOT experienced the correlation of problems that this location has. An earlier closing sends the drinkers either home or to a commercial strip where this may be appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please support the residential integrity of our neighborhood.
Lynn McDaniel
651-402-1835

From: [West Seventh Pharmacy](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Legislative Hearing Officer
Date: Friday, May 19, 2023 2:00:39 PM

Hi my name is Jeff Johnson.

My address is 845 Lincoln Ave St. Paul, MN 55105. My number is 651-224-7102. We live one block south of Billy's, I **oppose** this license application. We need more family-oriented restaurants in this neighborhood versus your typical bars. The past two years have been very challenging. We have seen an increase in gun violence and problems at this establishment. I am **NOT** in favor of a name change. It needs more than a name change to correct this problem.

I thank you for your time.

Jeff Johnson

From: [Lindsey Johnson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billys On Grand Liquor Licence
Date: Friday, May 19, 2023 2:59:58 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to urge you not to renew Billy's liquor license. There have been a number of issues with that establishment over the last few years that make that establishment unsafe and a menace to the community.

I live a few blocks away and have young kids. I should NOT have to worry about random shootings / gun violence while at home or walking down the street with my children.

Thanks
Lindsey

From: dw2717@comcast.net
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Billy"s on Grand - causing harm to our neighborhood
Date: Friday, May 19, 2023 3:52:24 PM

I live in Mac-Groveland neighborhood and am deeply concerned about the violence at Billy's on Grand, and especially the use of guns by patrons. I ask that you NOT renew their license.

We want a peaceful, quiet neighborhood. Billy's as a neighborhood business has no respect for the character of our neighborhood. If they are allowed to continue operations, neighbors will move out and deterioration of the neighborhood and neighborhood businesses will occur.

I am concerned that what happened to the Uptown neighborhood in Minneapolis, previously a thriving vibrant destination for all of the Twin Cities, will be happening to Grand Avenue next.

Deborah Wexler 651-955-6226
Mac Groveland