

April 2, 2018

Legislative Hearing Officer
310 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55102
LH-Licensing@ci.stpaul.mn.us

RE: Benzel Automotive, LLC d.b.a. Benzel Motors Application for Auto Repair Garage
License Number 20180000688

Dear Legislative Hearing Officer:

In response to your letter dated March 7, 2018, we would like to formally object to the license application of Benzel Automotive, LLC d.b.a. Benzel Motors at the location of 985 Randolph Ave, St. Paul, MN 55102. We have significant concerns regarding this licensee. Our past experience with previous businesses utilizing this space for an auto repair garage and lack of regulation of the license conditions further provides to our objection of this application.

CONCERNS ABOUT BENZEL MOTORS

- The previous tenant of the space, The Shop, informed our neighbors that when Benzel Motors moved into the location at 985 Randolph, they began doing business posing as The Shop. To include ordering supplies from various auto suppliers as The Shop. The Shop then received the bills for said orders. To say Benzel acted unethically is just too kind. Their practice was shady and dishonest which puts us at fear this practice will continue in our neighborhood.
- Per the conditions set form in number one and four (1 and 4) of your letter, customer and employee vehicles must be parked in the designated site plan, not to be parked in the driveway, alley, sidewalk, or public right of way. On several occasions we have witnessed vehicles parked outside the designated parking area to include: the driveway on Chatsworth with the rear of the car hanging into the street, in front of the driveway on Chatsworth to include the rear of the car blocking the alleyway, and in the driveway on Randolph blocking the sidewalk.
- Per the conditions set forth in number ten (10) of your letter, vehicles are not allowed to be parked on the premises for more than ten (10) days. We have witnessed that many of the vehicles parked on the premises have been parked for much longer than ten (10) days, it could be said some vehicles have been parked since they took over the space.
- Per the conditions set forth in number six (6) of your letter, no auto repair of vehicles may occur on the exterior of the lot or in the public right-of-way. It was witnessed first-hand on Friday, March 23, 2018 work was being done on an SUV on Chatsworth – with said vehicle also parked in an illegal location (in front of a driveway). Along with this street repair, there were various tools strewn about the street. This makes for much difficulty navigating

Chatsworth when vehicles are coming in both directions. This type of occurrence has also happened on other occasions.

PAST EXPERIENCE WITH AUTO REPAIR SHOPS AT THIS LOCATION

- Parking of auto shop vehicles, to include employee vehicles, throughout the neighborhood – namely along Chatsworth St. and James Ave in front of houses for extended periods of time. We as homeowner's park on the street and when the auto shop takes those spaces for the cars that should be in their lot, we are forced to sometimes park a block away from our home.
- Parking of vehicles on the neighborhood streets without moving the vehicles during snow emergencies or street cleaning.
- Working late into the night on vehicles causing an excess of noise much past the noise ordinance laws.

As you can see, we have laid out a significant amount of reasons why we believe this business should not be licensed to do business in this neighborhood.

If you have any questions, concerns or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at the below information. Thank you for taking the time to address our concerns.

Sincerely,

Luke Boyd and Jenny Shea
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