

**From:** Joanne Schmitt [mailto:jojosch22@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015 3:26 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward4  
**Subject:** charter amendment...joans in the park

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you on behalf of joans in the park restaurant in Highland Park (ward 3) in St. Paul. This is in regards to the request for the Charter Commission to take up proposed Charter amendment language that would exclude restaurants from the on-sale liquor license provisions that currently limit the number of liquor licenses available to restaurants in the city of St. Paul.

We have been operating for 4 years with a wine and beer license. We strongly believe the lack of on-sale liquor licenses in our ward is detrimental to our business, as many would-be diners would rather patronage a restaurant where they can have a cocktail with their meal. The proposed Charter amendment language would allow for restaurant like ours to better serve our guests and keep the flow of customers coming to St. Paul for high end dining.

I strongly urge you to approve the proposed Charter amendment language, and allow restaurants such as ours to continue doing business. While this change greatly impacts ward 3 it would also have a positive effect on St. Paul as a whole in the following ways:

- \* Encourage new restaurants to open in St Paul rather than Minneapolis. The current restrictions make St. Paul a much less attractive city to do business
- \* Bring in a steady stream of consumers spending money in St. Paul. This influx would have a positive impact on both restaurants and surrounding businesses.
- \* Benefit "mom and pop" type restaurants that are vital to our community. Chain restaurants can easily obtain commercial development district zoning, which allows them to bypass the on-sale liquor licence cap. Small, family owned businesses suffer under the current system.
- \* Increase tax revenue from higher liquor sales.

Again, I urge you to approve the change to the charter language so St. Paul can stay competitive, continue to thrive, and become a dining destination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joan Schmitt, Susan Dunlop