

PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

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July 10, 2013

Councilmember Dan Bostrom
Ward Six – City of Saint Paul
Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102


Re: 956 Payne Avenue – Request for 45-Day Waiver

Dear Councilmember Dan Bostrom:

The Payne Phalen District Five Community Planning & Economic Development Committee (CPED) met on July 2nd, 2013 at the Eastern District Police Station at 722 Payne Avenue. The public meeting was noticed to the adjacent neighborhood by District Five staff. The CPED meeting was chaired by Jonathan Bohn. On the agenda was a review of a license application for 956 Payne Avenue (Schwietz's Saloon and Eatery). In a separate communication, the District Five Council has recommended approval of the license applications for 956 Payne Avenue.

The CPED Committee requests via this letter that Mr. Bertges be granted a 45-day waiver to permit a soft opening of his business prior to the formal opening of the site in August. The original application was submitted by the applicant in March 2013 and the application came before the community on July 2nd, 2013. The CPED Committee found it reasonable and fair that the business owner be allowed to open his business and the waiver assists him in this process. The request was passed by unanimous vote. Please contact me with any questions or concerns at 651-774-5234. Thank you!

Sincerely,


Leslie McMurray, Executive Director

On behalf of the District Five CPED Committee

Cc: Lawrence R. Zangs
Project Facilitator - Dept. of Safety and Inspection

506 KENNY ROAD, SUITE 130, SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55130-4554

TEL # (651) 774-5234  FAX # (651) 774-9745

E-MAIL: DISTRICT5@PAYNEPHALEN.ORG

WWW.PAYNEPHALEN.ORG

PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

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July 3rd, 2013

Re: Schwietz's Saloon & Eatery: Liquor On Sale – 101-180 Seats, Entertainment (B), Restaurant (5) – 151 and over, and Restaurant (D) Add -On (Bar Only) Applicant - Ed Bertges

Dear Legislative Hearing Officer:

The Payne Phalen District Five Planning Council's CPED (Community Planning & Economic Development) Committee met on Tuesday, July 2nd, 2013 at 722 Payne Avenue. Chair Jonathan Bohn facilitated the meeting. District Five flyer'd the neighborhood with meeting notices. Additionally, the City Of Saint Paul completed its typical mail outreach to area residents and business owners. No one from the community was present to speak on this matter and no comments were received at the District Five offices. At its regular July 2013 meeting, the CPED Committee heard from the local resident and business owner Ed Bertges about this business license application.

The CPED Committee heard a presentation regarding the business plan for Schwietz's Saloon and Eatery. The presentation covered progress from design concept, to rehab of the building and patio, and visions for future growth. This business site is well-known to the community. Many CPED members expressed excitement for the re-opening of this historic business building on Payne Avenue. They expressed strong support for expediting the opening of the business on Payne Avenue.

The applicant's business plan presentation was very well-received. Questions from the Committee included plans for staffing and management, types of entertainment anticipated and hours of operation. The Committee heard from the applicant that current City Parking code was a determining factor in establishing the closing hour of midnight.

The Committee expressed its strong view that the parking code adversely hampered the potential success of the business which must remain competitive with area businesses in Saint Paul. The CPED Committee passed a motion to express to the City its strong support for the expedited opening of Schwietz's Saloon and Eatery and to request of the City that hours of operation be expanded to 11:00 AM to 1:00 AM. The business owner agreed to this proposed change. He said it would certainly help his business flourish if operating hours were extended.

The license application has the full support of the Payne Phalen District Five Planning Council with an additional request to extend hours of operation from 11:00 AM to 1:00 AM. The Committee will also pursue by separate letter a 45-day waiver to allow the business to have a "soft opening" event in late July. Questions may be directed to the District Five office at 651-774-5234 or d5-director@visi.com

Sincerely,



Leslie McMurray, Executive Director – Organizer

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