

LH-Licensing - Re: Legislative Hearing Notification

From: Cherie Riesenbergs <riesenberg@comcast.net>
To: LH-Licensing LH-Licensing <LH-Licensing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>, Vicki Sheffer ...
Date: 11/28/2011 11:17 PM
Subject: Re: Legislative Hearing Notification

To the Licensing Dept and Councilman Stark,

I am not able to attend the meeting on the license to serve liquor for 291+ at the University of St. Thomas, but want to register that I oppose this license.

St. Thomas has a poor history of managing its affairs in the neighborhood, and it has strained its relationship with its neighbors, in sharp contrast to several other area colleges that have worked to enjoy very good relationships with the communities around them.

It was not always the case, but in recent years, STU has repeatedly shown a lack of consideration, insensitivity, poor judgment and sometimes even outright arrogance toward its neighbors. Community groups, residents and neighborhood organizations have repeatedly found their plans and proposals out character with and harmful to the community in other ways. They were brutally aggressive and uncooperative regarding parking on River Road, even though we begged them to back off. In the entire history of the City, no one had abused that parking, but because of them, we were forced to get permit parking, forever altering the entire character of the parkway and diminishing our enjoyment and value of our homes. They have consistently demonstrated that any regard for environmental balance, beauty, residential value or historical importance of the neighborhood is secondary to their own institutional aims and revenue stream. If their students reflect the college, they announced at a public meeting that the University "will build" in valuable green space that is part of a river corridor greenway that is a signature historic area of our city, even though hundreds of people had shown up to object to just such a plan. The student housing issue is unresolved. As a result of all these experiences, St. Thomas continues to elicit negative reactions from its neighbors and local community groups. These concerns make me question whether they can be dependable to responsibly develop and monitor the kind of activity now proposed.

St. Thomas also seems to have unlimited resources to build and renovate on campus while families around them struggle in a difficult economy to maintain their own homes, and pay soaring property taxes on declining home values often further affected adversely by the University. While paying no taxes, STU benefits from police, fire, street cleaning services, etc., in a safe, clean and lovely neighborhood to attract their students. But, not only do they contribute nothing to the expense of maintaining it, they have consistently pushed limits, antagonized and often disrupted the community of those who do provide those services and benefits for them at great sacrifice and expense to themselves. If this license is granted, they are possibly also siphoning revenue and employment from nearby businesses of those who do contribute to keeping up the City they enjoy.

St. Thomas seems increasingly more like a commercial venture than an educational institution. This liquor proposal just expands that commercial dimension. Unless St. Thomas wants to forfeit their non-profit status, to operate businesses, and unless they have a consistent pattern of institutional cooperation, I do not think it makes sense to give them a license to serve liquor. Further, this kind of commercial activity on campus is inconsistent with the residential nature of the neighborhood.

Cherie Riesenber
162 South Mississippi River Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55105
riesenberg@comcast.net
(612) 816-1424

On Nov 28, 2011, at 11:02 AM, LH-Licensing LH-Licensing wrote:

<St Thomas 2115 Summit Ave W4.2nd Notification.doc>

LH-Licensing - Re: Legislative Hearing Notification

From: Ann <abilleadeau@aol.com>
To: Cherie Riesenbergs <riesenberg@comcast.net>
Date: 12/3/2011 2:12 AM
Subject: Re: Legislative Hearing Notification
CC: LH-Licensing LH-Licensing <lh-licensing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>, Vicki Sheffer ...

Russ Stark has been so agreeous to this neighborhood and his constituents that he is useless as an advocate or a man of integrity . It's best, and I have stopped inviting him to the table as have so many others who are sincere about their neighborhood..

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 28, 2011, at 11:16 PM, Cherie Riesenbergs <riesenberg@comcast.net> wrote:

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Vicki Sheffer - FW: Saint Thomas University Liquor License

From: Debbie Givot <debbiegivot@hotmail.com>
To: <vicki.sheffer@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Date: 12/7/2011 9:42 AM
Subject: FW: Saint Thomas University Liquor License

To whom it may concern: My home is at 2188 Fairmount Avenue in St. Paul, which is several blocks from Saint Thomas University. I am unable to attend the meeting regarding the Liquor License that Saint Thomas University is attempting to obtain, due to work commitments, however, I wish to voice my vote AGAINST to acquisition of a liquor license to an educational facility in my neighborhood. Our neighborhood has been "pushed out" by Saint Thomas University, a once small, neighborhood Christian-based educational facility. This has happened with the continued expansion and ensuing traffic and pollution to our neighborhood, which is the very heart of Saint Paul. I currently am required PAY (permit parking) to park in front of my very own house, after paying close to \$6,000 in property taxes annually, because the number of students in the past 10 years has grown significantly and student's vehicles were consuming our streets. A parking facility has been built, almost in my back yard, to alleviate the neighborhood parking issues, which has since created an increase in traffic flow and the necessity of using traffic police and closing down a lane of traffic every time there is an event at Saint Thomas University. We have endured the never-ending push from Saint Thomas into our very homes, and the acquisition of a liquor license to a Christian-based educational facility will complicate the driving and behavior of individuals attending and is absolutely unsafe.

This acquisition has no legitimate basis, and is encouraging students and their parents to consume alcoholic beverages while on Saint Thomas's property, then having them to drive home under the influence. I do not believe this is a prudent decision, and will certainly strike anger and fear into the surrounding neighborhood, a decision not in the best interest of SAINT Thomas University. My Vote is NO Liquor License.

LH-Licensing - Fwd: Opposition to St. Thomas Liquor License

From: Vicki Sheffer
To: LH-Licensing
Date: 12/7/2011 11:23 AM
Subject: Fwd: Opposition to St. Thomas Liquor License

>>> Maria Sera PhD <sera@umn.edu> 12/7/2011 10:57 AM >>>
Dear Council Member Stark,

I am writing to express my opposition to the application of St. Thomas for a Liquor License to sell liquor on campus. Underage drinking on college campuses is already a huge problem. It has been linked to binge drinking and death, rape, and other violent crimes. Most college students-- 18, 19, & 20-yr-olds-- are below the age of 21. This is why liquor sales are NOT allowed at nearly all college and university campuses. It should remain that way.

Thank you for your time and all your work on behalf of St. Paul.

Sincerely,

Maria Sera
2220 Goodrich Avenue

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Maria D. Sera, Ph.D.
Full Professor
Institute of Child Development
University of Minnesota
51 East River Rd.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Office Phone: 612-624-2856

LH-Licensing - Fwd: Legislative hearing Dec.8 re: St. Thomas Liquor License

From: Vicki Sheffer
To: LH-Licensing
Date: 12/7/2011 11:23 AM
Subject: Fwd: Legislative hearing Dec.8 re: St. Thomas Liquor License

>>> "Larry McIntyre" <larrymcintyre@comcast.net> 12/7/2011 11:20 AM >>>

Ms Sheffer- I was given your name as the appropriate person to voice my objection to St. Paul granting a Liquor License to St. Thomas University. I am unable to attend the hearing on December 8, 2011.

I live at 208 Mississippi River Boulevard South. I am a graduate of St. Thomas. But I object to the school having its own liquor license. When it has appropriate events it is well able to hire licensed caterers – thus helping employment of small business in the City. The granting of a license to the University would permit the school to operate a business for profit. This just does not make sense.

Very truly yours,

J. Lawrence McIntyre
208 Mississippi River Boulevard South

LH-Licensing - Fwd: liquor license for Saint Thomas University

From: Vicki Sheffer
To: LH-Licensing
Date: 12/8/2011 8:27 AM
Subject: Fwd: liquor license for Saint Thomas University

>>> "Mary" <maryemcintyre@comcast.net> 12/7/2011 5:12 PM >>>

Dear Ms. Sheffer,

As a neighbor of the University, living at 208 Mississippi River Boulevard South, I would like to register my opposition to the granting of a liquor license to the University of Saint Thomas. We know we live within their shadow, because we have "permit only" parking in front of our home, because of student parking.

Living within their shadow, I have heard nothing in their proposal to justify the granting of such a license. Judging from our 33 years as their neighbor, I do not trust that such a license would be properly enforced, on campus.

Please deny the school their application for a liquor license.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McIntyre

H: 651-690-2829

Cell: 612-860-1254

maryemcintyre@comcast.net