

From: [Mary Antonia Wilmes](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#); [Alexa Golemo](#); artpunyko@gmail.com; [#CI-StPaul_Ward3](#)
Subject: License for P&S Enterprises, d/b/a Haas Collision & Glass at 1400 St. Clair Avenue
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 2:49:53 PM

To: St. Paul Department of Safety and Inspections and Legislative Hearing Officer, and MGCC Housing and Land Use Committee:

I am writing to you regarding the license application for P&S Enterprises, d/b/a Haas Collision & Glass at 1400 St. Clair Avenue. I understand that this license application is required because the business has changed ownership. I support this application.

I have lived on the second floor of my duplex at 1393 Berkeley Av., on the corner of Berkeley and Albert, since 1985. Across the alley behind me is the cleaners and across Albert from that is the body shop. I have found the body shop to be a good neighbor, through several changes in ownership, and this latest change is within a family. The body shop employees have basically taken over plowing that block of Albert, way before the City gets to it, which is great for neighbors.

I have reviewed the objections by Melanie Peterson-Nafziger and Erik Nafziger. I have known these neighbors for years and respect them both; however, I've had a 100% different experience from theirs with regard to Haas Collision and Glass. Melanie asked me about my experience with fumes some years back, perhaps the last time the body shop changed ownership. I told her then and it is still true today: I have never seen nor smelled a plume of anything coming from the body shop, and I live closer than they or any of the neighbors that Melanie said have developed cancer. I did not in fact know that all the neighbors she mentioned had cancer, but I know how common cancer is, and surely wouldn't assume the cause in each case. Our different experience is particularly puzzling since I worked at home from 2000 until I retired in 2014, and I spend lots of time outside gardening and/or with my dog. If I had detected a problem, I would be over there, talking to the owner, as I have with smaller issues.

Regarding other issues, parking is indeed at a premium here. The brick building kitty-corner from the body shop has two beauty shops and another business, plus offices and/or apartments above and has no parking lot. To me, such issues are part of living in a city.

Many of the cars parked along Albert Street, which I see from my second floor kitchen and dining room windows, are owned by neighbors who live on Saint Clair and apparently don't like the hassle of parking on that busier street. Multiple times a day I see neighbors going to and from their cars through the alley from their homes on Saint Clair on my block or the one across Albert. Over the years neighbors doing that have frequently included members of Melanie and Erik's family. Some are customers of the cleaners who don't choose to use its parking lot. Some of the parked cars may be people who want to have their damages checked by Haas. I rarely see seriously damaged cars on the street. I do see Haas employees checking out damages and talking to a customer sometimes.

Once or twice in the 37 years I've lived here, I have seen a wrecked car left on Berkeley across from my house and I have gone to the body shop and said it needed to be moved because I didn't want to look at it. I understand that tow trucks, especially after hours, will unload a wrecked car and leave it on the street, and the body shop may not even be immediately aware of that. When I say it needs to be moved, it gets moved.

I know the owner of the body shop has been trying to find a lot to park cars, and imagine he would have a tough time getting the city to approve such a use in the city, if in fact he found such a lot. The past owner had tried to buy the cleaners parking lot

I choose to live in the city and have sympathy for many businesses that don't have enough parking because times have changed, and I don't want to have to go to the suburbs for car repairs.

--

MARY ANTONIA WILMES
1393 Berkeley Avenue
Saint Paul MN 55105
651-698-0301