

From: [DAVID CONNOR](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Comments on License Application for the Groveland Tap License No. 1998003516
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 7:53:25 PM

I object to the granting of a license for Groveland Tap for outdoor liquor service and expanding the indoor service area for the following reasons:

I live at 1849 Berkeley Avenue and I share an alley with Groveland Tap. My house is five houses down from the patio constructed by Groveland Tap. I have multiple concerns about the granting of this license.

1. This is a major expansion of the business. It was not a remodel, it was an expansion. Previous to the construction of the patio, the entire business was focused on St. Clair. The business now appears to be focusing on squeezing as many as 125 people into a patio area in the alley. If this is allowed, it will now be an alley business damaging the peace and quiet of residents on Berkeley Avenue. Since the expansion of the business and the reopening, there are virtually no parking spots available on St. Clair, Howell or Berkeley. It appears that employees park on Howell for up to 8 hours at a time leaving no opportunity for residents to park on Howell. In addition, customers park as far away as two blocks from the Groveland Tap leaving no spots for residents on Berkeley to park in front of their own houses. The employees smoke, leave garbage and idle their cars on Howell for extended periods of time causing many concerns including smoke and exhaust entering houses particularly in the summer time when windows will be open. The patio appears to be able to seat over a hundred customers. There appears to be a fire place. The sound pollution and light pollution will make it impossible for residents who live on Berkeley to spend time outside. They will have to close their windows and not be able to enjoy their backyard.

2. Excessive trash. Berkeley, Howell, St. Clair and Fairview are littered with trash. It is especially noticeable on weekend mornings. In my 13 and 1/2 years living at 1849 Berkeley, I have never observed an employee of the Groveland Tap picking up garbage. It appears that the current license requires this, yet the only people who have ever picked up the trash have been the neighbors who live here. The garbage cans assigned to the Groveland Tap are overflowing with garbage. In addition to the smell this is likely to bring in the warmer months, it also attracts animals and other pests.

3. Concerns that the Groveland Tap may be violating their current license. The license application says "expanding the indoor On-Sale Liquor Service Area." It appears to me that a new bar was constructed in the expanded area of the business. Prior to the remodel, a comic book store and hair salon occupied part of the building. A new bar was constructed in that area and it appears that alcohol is being served currently in the expanded area-- and has been being served since they reopened a few months ago.

4. No notice was ever given to the neighbors about the building of a patio. We woke up one day to concrete being laid. Now there is no parking area at the back entrance of the Groveland Tap. The area where the patio now sits is where delivery trucks used to load and unload. Now, they do the loading and unloading in the alley and

these delivery trucks have gotten stuck all winter. Several of these trucks can barely fit or make it down the alley. It is a safety hazard, The delivery trucks consistently drive over a retaining wall and portions of my lawn/garden in the alley. In addition, customers of the Groveland Tap use the alley as a short cut, a place to stop and idle their cars and also throw trash. It is not unusual for me to find liquor bottles and other trash that has been thrown over my privacy fence and into my back yard.

5. Employees use the alley to enter and exit the business. There is a flow of employees at closing time who walk through the alley, talk loudly, loiter and leave trash. I have concerns about the safety of employees, customers and neighbors using the alley after dark. I worry about car pedestrian accidents in the alley as well as other general safety concerns.

6. This is a major expansion of the business. I don't know the measurements, but I estimate the Groveland Tap has doubled in size. Granting of this license will cause a severe change in the character of the neighborhood. A residential area will now have to deal with noise, traffic and lack of parking. I am worried about an increase in auto accidents. It is not unusual to hear honking of car horns out of frustration of drivers who are not able to easily navigate their vehicles because of the heavy car traffic. Customers and employees routinely violate the city parking laws. On several occasions, Groveland Tap customers have partially blocked our driveway. Vehicles regularly block cross walks and they park too close to the intersections. This causes dangerous driving conditions. For example, if you want to take a right or left turn from Howell to St. Clair, more often than not, you are unable to see oncoming traffic from either direction on St. Clair because cars are parked too close to the intersection, preventing the driver on Howell from seeing traffic.

For these reasons I am asking that you deny the license application.

Sincerely,

David Connor
1849 Berkeley Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105
651 295 5828