

Dear Ms. Lantry (as City Council President) and Mr. Thao (as Ward 1 city council person):

I'm a neighbor to the Salt Cellar; I live at 4xx Marshall Avenue just a couple of blocks away from the new restaurant. I have no relationship to the business and don't know Mr. Kasel and Mr. Geisen, but wanted to express my input on the parking concerns that are holding up the opening of the Salt Cellar.

I am very disheartened to see in a recent Star Tribune article that Mr. Kasel, co-owner of the Salt Cellar, has had to visit the City Council SEVEN TIMES to resolve a grandfathered parking issue. In my opinion, this is small time bureaucracy run amok. Here we have successful business owners, with proven success in another establishment, willing to make another investment in new business in our neighborhood, and we are holding it up over parking spaces. This is nothing more than not allowing progress, and listening to potentially impacted competitors, rather than fact-based thinking.

Let me tell you my history in this neighborhood; I am not writing this as a dilettante. I have lived here for a long time. 20 years ago my husband and I, right after our wedding, moved into an apartment in Hill Plaza. One year later, we bought our first house at 459 Laurel Avenue. 13 years ago, we moved into our current house at 463 Marshall Ave. Obviously I have a long term (and substantial financial) investment in this neighborhood. I've seen so many businesses start here, and each of them contributes to the positive energy, economic benefit, and progression of the neighborhood in terms of safety, options, and entertainment.

I've also had people park in front of my house for things like the Twin Cities marathon, the fireworks, Rondo Days, Grand Old Days, Crashed Ice - some of them have even blocked my driveway in their zeal to participate. And you know what I say? Thank goodness for the commerce, for the business, and for the participation of the community.

It is wrong to deny a business opening (particularly with employees, who require holiday income like we all do) over parking when the business HAS PARKING. My husband, our friends, my family, our book clubs, my college friends - we all frequent Moscow on the Hill, the Louisiana Cafe, Cheeky Monkey, WA Frost, La Grolla, the Happy Gnome (we eat out a LOT). And sometimes we have to walk a block or two (or from our house). And that's OK. A rising tide lifts all boats, and the Salt Cellar I'm sure is a welcome addition and will contribute itself to the growing and developing and thriving Selby Ave.

Please take my feedback into consideration as you move into yet another discussion on the topic of the Salt Cellar. I urge you to approve the business and get incomes and business flowing.

Thank you for your time.

Erika Perrault
Marshall Avenue