

Dear Councilmember Finney,

I've just found out about the upcoming hearing on The Strip Club's appeal of some adverse rulings related to code inspections.

I'm very concerned that if things do not change from what staff has recommended, the Strip Club will have no choice but to close.

The Strip Club has been such a beneficial addition to our neighborhood since it opened here, bringing so much positive attention to the East Side and Dayton's Bluff at an important time in our neighborhood's history. My family and I have enjoyed many many meals there over the years, and have come to know Tim, Christy, J.D., and many of their staff very well. They are all fine people and have done so much to promote and advocate for the East Side. I would hate to see them go.

It seems to me that, while the code compliance issues are serious and worthy of sober consideration, these are issues which should have been raised at or before the time the restaurant opened, so that the owners of the restaurant and the building could have come up with a plan to address them, or could have decided that they could not be overcome and shelved the project. For them to be brought up now, years after the restaurant opened and became a neighborhood fixture, just seems wrong.

I hope that some arrangement can be worked out whereby the public's safety is protected, but also this important neighborhood institution can be preserved (not to mention its historic building).

It's unlikely that my restaurant, Ward 6 Food & Drink, would have been able to open and be successful if The Strip Club had not paved the way. Please don't allow the pride of our neighborhood and (in my opinion) the finest restaurant in St. Paul to be uprooted in this way.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Cheers,

Eric Foster
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