

Dear Council Members,

Writing from my own experience as a 15 year resident of the Carroll/Victoria part of the neighborhood (2001-current) I would like to go on record in opposition to The Lex having any sort of liquor license on their property.

It is my deep respect for, and sensitivity to, my neighborhood's history that convinces me that The Lex, as described in the literature from the owner, is exactly what we DON'T need to move this community forward.

While the rhetoric of the owner's communications has been using community, history and healing to gain support, it is important to remember that it is 2016, and there are more effective ways to come together, commemorate and heal.

The new Jimmy Lee recreation center and athletic field is a better way to come together. On any given day, the rooms at the community center are booked by birthday parties, church meetings and other "common interests" to use Mr. Carter's term. No membership required.

The community gardens are a better way to lend a hand, share history, and build a vision. Growing vegetables leads to sharing recipes, recipes give rise to stories, and stories strengthen bonds and keep history alive.

The Friendly Streets Initiative's Better Bridges Project is a better way to heal historical damage. By literally healing the infrastructure of the neighborhood, reconnecting the south and north sides of 94.

I could go on. But the indisputable reality is that the very idea of the Lex is an outdated model and a proven step backward for community building. You only need to look down the block at the ongoing problems at the Pioneer Club for corroborate that fact.

Please oppose the The Lex, focus energy on solving existing problems, fuel the positive changes already afoot, and support modern visions to make a more united Rondo a reality.

Sincerely,

William Burns
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