

Renee Tyler – Public Hearing – The Lex

9xx Carroll Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Honorable Councilmembers,

I believe all things happen for a reason, I also believe that ignorance of the law is no excuse. If a business owner fails to follow through with licensing procedures, the blame and responsibility should not fall to the City, its officials, or become the neighbor's burden to bare.

Change is inevitable, without it there would be no history. Whether we are speaking of family or community history, time brings change, some very positive and some very negative. Since the late 80's 976 Concordia, regardless of its operator has been a **negative** experience for most neighbors.

In regard to 976 Concordia its owner and operator have failed to provide a clear business plan that outlines its true business intentions. I was told directly by its owner and operator that it will operate as a member's only club, then as of last Saturday, Mr. Howe its owner said that The Lex will host weddings, funerals, receptions, birthday parties, community events, host live music and potentially serve food after they remodel the kitchen. Really, all without proper liquor and entertainment licensing? The Lex has been operating without proper licensing, and maybe it is because there is an administrative delay between notifications between DSI and the City attorney's office, I don't know, but there appears to be a breakdown in communication and discipline.

What I do know, is that prior to Super Bowl Sunday I was informed that The Lex would be hosting a Super Bowl party and informed DSI. Later I found out that I know the host and that it was a Birthday party. It is my understanding that DSI sent St. Paul Police to check, but was not updated as to whether they were cited for selling alcohol. In speaking to the owner, Mr. Howe, I told him that I was disappointed, The Lex did a poor job of having visitors sign in on Super Bowl Sunday. I also told him that non-members were purchasing and consuming alcohol, people posted pictures on Face Book that included pictures of non-

members drinking. His response was that The Lex was had not been cited and that he would speak with Mr. Carter “Jazz” about it.

Shortly after that conversation on March 12, 2016, I was returning home and witnessed a patron pouring his beer out on private property while walking from his vehicle to The Lex, a 2nd patron urinating in the alley, 50 people loitering out front instead of within the enclosed patio area, and the blocking of traffic along Concordia and Chatsworth.

It’s frightening to me and neighbors that under the “consumption and display license,” The Lex Members would be allowed to bring their own liquor to 976 Concordia, consume and serve alcohol to their guests without proper city enforcement. Can restrictions be placed on a “Consumption and Display” license? It is my understanding that city officials are not sure whether or not restrictions can be added to this license? Therefore, would policing responsibilities once again fall to the neighbors and the police department, as it does with The Pioneer Club at 334 N. Milton? The police have stopped responding, they too are tired of the repeated calls.

Without proper enforcement and information, regardless of the individual or establishment this license does not belong within the City of St. Paul and certainly not within a residential neighborhood.

As one neighbor put it, we welcome all businesses that are welcoming, inviting, and inclusive to all ages. Let’s stop segregating our community. I would like to thank Councilmember Thao for his efforts to work with The Lex (Mr. Howe and Mr. Carter) to establish and identify proper location and licensing to match their business plan.

Sincerely,

Renee Tyler