

## Legislative License Hearing

Objections to adding a Liquor-Outdoor (Patio) Service Area and Entertainment B License to the existing liquor license at City House.

### Allen M. and Valarie H. Voelz

1. Red River Kitchen trailer, when open for business, already extends into the walking path.

**Response:** RRK table staff carry food from trailer to indoor seating/dining area. There is no outdoor dining on pedestrian and wheel conveyance side of City House.

2. The limited availability of parking spaces.

**Response:** The City of Saint Paul met City House Conditional Use Permit (CUP) requirements with construction of City House Garage. Beyond the CUP, there is public surface lot parking at Upper Landing (1 Block) and public on-street parking (one side only). NOTE: Saint Paul Police enforce residential permit parking on the other side of public streets at Upper Landing.

- Parks and Recreation's contract with Red River Kitchen stipulates, "all private events which will have 200 or more attendees, a parking plan must be submitted to the Department of Parks and Recreation at least two weeks prior."

3. The noise level (when City House garage doors facing residents are open) with bean bag toss games, already echoes up Mill Street.

**Response:** Bean bag game noise is well below City of Saint Paul noise ordinance statutes.

4. Additional music Venues (disc jockey/band) could make living on the decks facing Mill Street unusable.

**Response:** City is no longer pursuing Entertainment B license. Application cancelled.

5. Large gathering for weddings, etc. would require "port-a-potties" with no inconspicuous place to put them, creating smell and it would require additional days for placing and removing them.

**Response:** Per Department of Safety and Inspections Occupancy code, City House has enough toilets. No port-a-potties are needed. NOTE: Occasionally, public events at Upper Landing (not associated with City House) require port-a-potties.

6. Crowds of 100 and 200 people could be asking for injuries, as the walking path and the bike path are adjacent to the building (this area is known for its beautiful walking and biking paths and this will add congestion).

**Response:** Currently, liquor consumption is confined to inside City House. Requested Liquor Outdoor (Patio) Service Area is restricted to Mississippi River side deck of City House. NOTE: City House food customers may take food home (e.g. doggy bags) in which they will use and/or cross public paths.

7. Unsightly garbage containers for large crowds (again, no place for the containers) and the noise of transportation, whether it be delivering or removing of garbage and garbage containers would be a nuisance to the residents (not to mention smell, mess and rodents).

**Response:** City House trash and recycling is removed from the premises, and deposited into trash and recycling dumpsters in City House Garage. Other Upper Landing businesses and residential complexes already use in-garage trash and recycling dumpsters without complaint. City House should be allowed the same consideration.

8. Crowds attending the functions tend to wander and some will end up in our well-manicured lawns and gardens.

**Response:** City House customers may use City House Garage (directly up/down stairs from City House, public Upper Landing surface parking lot (1 block from City House along pedestrian path), and/or public on-street parking (one side only). The suggestion that City House “crowds” tend to wander and end up in residential lawns and gardens is purely speculative.

9. Delivery trucks have no easy access and therefore block traffic on the streets.

**Response:** Typically, trucks deliver product to City House during non-rush hour times (e.g. 10:00 am to 12:00 pm). Like delivery trucks to City House, most delivery trucks in the City of Saint Paul park along the street curb without blocking traffic. That is the case at City House. City House cannot be held to a different standard than the rest of the City. SEE Photograph. F.Y.I. – Vehicular traffic is one-way only around the center of street rain garden in photograph, so there is no blocking of traffic in the area.



10. Security is an issue, along with police access and emergency vehicle access.

**Response:** City House has a monitored alarm system. Saint Paul Parks and Recreation has a Parks Safety and Security Office that includes Parks Rangers that respond to emergency alarm calls. Saint Paul Police and Fire have expressed no issues accessing City House. Emergency vehicles regularly drive on pedestrian and wheel conveyance paths in parks. Not an issue.

11. We moved here for the River views and peaceful life, without a dance hall/entertainment atmosphere!

**Response:** City is no longer pursuing Entertainment B license. Application cancelled.

Cynthia Schanno

1. Noise (coming from the facility given the doors are open and being on the water).

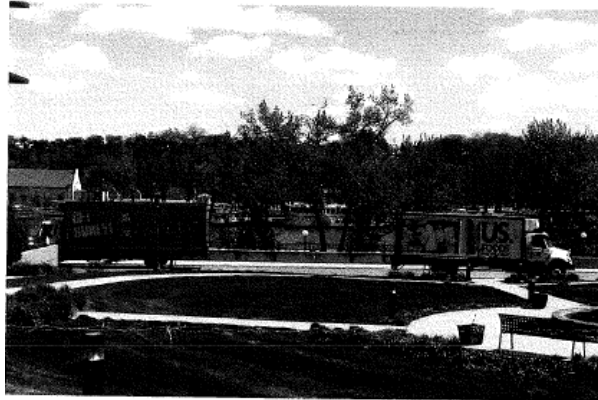
**Response:** Sound emanating from City House is well below City of Saint Paul noise ordinance statutes.

2. Traffic and parking issue (see photogs attached).

**Response:**

- The City of Saint Paul met City House Conditional Use Permit (CUP) requirements with construction of City House Garage. Beyond the CUP, there is public surface lot parking at Upper Landing (1 Block) and public on-street parking (one side only). NOTE: Saint Paul Police enforce residential permit parking on the other side of public streets at Upper Landing.
- Parks and Recreation's contract with Red River Kitchen stipulates, "all private events which will have 200 or more attendees, a parking plan must be submitted to the Department of Parks and Recreation at least two weeks prior."

3. Delivery truck congestion (see photos attached).



**Response:** Typically, trucks deliver product to City House during non-rush hour times (e.g. 10:00 am to 12:00 pm). Like delivery trucks to City House, most delivery trucks in the City of Saint Paul park along the street curb without blocking traffic. That is the case at City House. City House cannot be held to a different standard than the rest of the City.

4. Security issue with intoxicated patrons lingering and trespassing in our courtyard which faces south.

**Response:** City House customers may use City House Garage (directly up/down stairs from City House, public Upper Landing surface parking lot (1 block from City House along pedestrian path), and/or public on-street parking (one side only). The suggestion that City House patrons are intoxicated and lingering and trespassing in residential courtyards is purely speculative.

5. Parks and Recreation's deceptive communication practices failed to meet 60% threshold for support on this application. (Writer indicated "deceptive communication practices" included door-to-door effort to get support, and mailing beyond 350 feet radius of City House.)

**Response:**

- Saint Paul Parks and Recreation was required to obtain 60% of resident signatures on two (2) Consent Petitions 1.) Outdoor (Patio) Liquor Service, and 2.) Entertainment B).
- The Outdoor (Patio) Liquor Service Consent Petition attained more than 60% support.
- The City withdrew Entertainment B Consent Petition due to the lack of support.
- Saint Paul's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) encouraged Parks and Recreation to go door-to-door requesting signatures.
- Cedar Management and Gittleman Management groups and Home Owner's Association Boards authorized Parks and Recreation to go door-to-door seeking signatures on the Consent Petition(s).
- Numerous Upper Landing residents are renter occupied, and only the unit owner's signature complies with the Consent Petition requirements.
- DSI provided the postal mailing list of residents within 350 radius. DSI's postal mailing list came from Ramsey County.

Mary Todd Carpenter (on behalf of neighbor)

1. Noise and music from large gatherings would adversely affect many homeowners.  
**Response:** The City withdrew Entertainment B Consent Petition due to the lack of support.
2. City House capacity of 300 plus occupants which will result in a substantial increase in traffic and parking issues.  
**Response:** The City of Saint Paul met City House Conditional Use Permit (CUP) requirements with construction of City House Garage. Beyond the CUP, there is public surface lot parking at Upper Landing (1 Block) and public on-street parking (one side only).  
NOTE: Saint Paul Police enforce residential permit parking on the other side of public streets at Upper Landing.
3. Large groups of people for public or private events with music, dancing, and liquor raise a strong likelihood of security issues in and around our neighborhood.  
**Response:** The City withdrew Entertainment B Consent Petition due to the lack of support.
4. The area immediately surrounding City House is a national park enjoyed by many for walking, hiking, and biking. Many people drive to the river on weekends to enjoy these outdoor activities. Music, partying, and lack of parking will infringe on the overall character of the park and the immediate residential neighborhood.  
**Response: SAME As Above -**
  - The City withdrew Entertainment B Consent Petition due to the lack of support.
  - The City of Saint Paul met City House Conditional Use Permit (CUP) requirements with construction of City House Garage. Beyond the CUP, there is public surface lot parking at Upper Landing (1 Block) and public on-street parking (one side only).  
NOTE: Saint Paul Police enforce residential permit parking on the other side of public streets at Upper Landing.
5. There are no other Class B Entertainment licenses in the area. One needs to go to West Seventh Street to find the nearest establishments that hold this type of license.  
**Response:** The City withdrew Entertainment B Consent Petition due to the lack of support.

6. Our homes are in a residential area adjacent to the Mississippi River. As homeowners we pay a premium in property taxes to enjoy our proximity to the Mississippi River. Many of us have incurred a sizable increase in our taxes this year. We did not purchase our homes with the expectation that a Class B Entertainment License with music and dancing would be granted for use next door for the sole benefit of a private business owner. This type of license would infringe on the character of our neighborhood and the enjoyment of our homes.

**Response:**

- The City withdrew Entertainment B Consent Petition due to the lack of support.
- Saint Paul Parks and Recreation partnered with Red River Kitchen to provide the Upper Landing amenity known as City House.
- All Saint Paul residents and visitors benefit from City House.
- Red River Kitchen pays the City a percentage of profits from City House. Saint Paul Parks and Recreation reinvests those dollars back into the Saint Paul community via additional recreation programming.

**Robert Awsumb**

1. We are homeowners at 256 Spring Street in Saint Paul. Our condo unit is about 150-200 feet from the City House building which houses Red River Kitchen food truck. We object to the issuance of an Entertainment B license for the City House at 258 Mill Street.

We live amidst 200-300 homeowners in a four-block area that has no restaurants and no bars to other entertainment venues. We have a coffee shop and an Anytime Fitness in the area and no other commercial establishments. Last year the City granted the authority for Red River Kitchen to sell food from a food truck and to serve alcohol. The neighborhood has tolerated the traffic and noise from the new activity as good neighbors. Now there is a request to grant a new license which is the highest-level entertainment license the city offers. This is the same license as O’Gara’s, Mancini’s and other large music venues in the city. It makes no sense to authorize such activity into our small residential neighborhood.

**Response:** The City withdrew Entertainment B Consent Petition due to the lack of support.

2. We understand there is also a request by parks and Recreation to obtain a liquor-outdoor service area license to serve liquor on the river-side patio area. **We have no objection to that application.**

**Response:** Thank you for your support of the Outdoor (Patio) Liquor Service license.

**Gary and Perri Hite**

1. As residents who reside at 284 Spring Street, we inform you that we:

- Support the issuance of the liquor license expansion.

**Response:** Thank you for your support of the Outdoor (Patio) Liquor Service license.

- DO NOT support the issuance of the Entertainment B license.

**Response:** The City withdrew Entertainment B Consent Petition due to the lack of support.

2. We would be in support of the issuance of the Entertainment B license if, and only if, the following conditions are attached to the license:

- The Entertainment B license is valid for a period of one (1) year from its issuance;
- Any renewal or extension of the Entertainment B license requires public notice to residents living within 350 feet of City House;

- Only one (1) door facing the trail head be open during business hours;
- Signs are installed on the interior walls of City House fronting the trail head directing that no alcoholic beverages are allowed outside of City House; and
- All attendees or invitees of city House, whether attending a public event or a private event, are required to stay inside City House or on its balcony, i.e., they cannot gather, congregate, or otherwise carry on their event outside of City House fronting the trail head.

**Response:** The City withdrew Entertainment B Consent Petition due to the lack of support.

### Dale and Claudia Zellmer

In response to adding the above services to the City House 258 Mill Street, we have several concerns to share for the Red River Kitchen operation.

1. Parking is already at a premium with all the downtown events (Wild games, Xcel events) leaving no space for residents and their visitors.

**Response:**

- City House customers may use City House Garage (directly up/down stairs from City House, public Upper Landing surface parking lot (1 block from City House along pedestrian path), and/or public on-street parking (one side only).
  - Parks and Recreation's contract with Red River Kitchen stipulates, "all private events which will have 200 or more attendees, a parking plan must be submitted to the Department of Parks and Recreation at least two weeks prior."
  -
2. Noise from Harriet Island events and all the scheduled Shepard Road closings for marathon and running activities is already an issue and creating a bar atmosphere in our backyard will be an additional daily burden for residents to bear.

**Response:** The City withdrew Entertainment B Consent Petition due to the lack of support.

3. Cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption are positively correlated and we envision an increase in a health hazard to us along with increased cigarette butt littering. Having our windows and balcony door open will be spoiled by disgusting cigarette smoke and greasy cooking odors wafting into our home.
4. Extended hours of a bar operation translates to late night carousing, noise levels, etc.

**Response:** Parks and Recreation's contract with Red River Kitchen stipulates hours of operations are 11:00 am to 9:00 pm, everyday of the week. No more than three private events may be scheduled each month, which may not be on consecutive days, and for all private events which will have 200 or more attendees, a parking plan must be submitted to the Department of Parks and Recreation at least two weeks prior. Events must end by 10:00 pm.

5. Our property value will decrease with a bar in our backyard at the same time our property taxes continue to increase.

**Response:** The suggestion that property value will decrease with a bar in our backyard is speculative.