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**Paris Dunning**

City of St. Paul City Council  
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September 15, 2020

Re: Proposal for changing off-sale wine shop distance requirements

Dear City Council,

On behalf of the East Side Area Business Association, I'm writing to express support of the plan put forward by owner Thomas Keim for his expansion at 374-378 Maria and the ordinance change needed to realize the full potential of his project. We feel that in this case, his proposed store will be more than a half mile from the nearest off-sale liquor store by road miles though it is not as the crow flies. Further there are several very good reasons to consider this ordinance change that would allow Mr. Keim to put in a specialty wine shop next to his brew pub Yoerg Brewing Company.

Changing the ordinance to allow for the creation of this kind of specialty wine shop with this proximity will give the opportunity for entrepreneurs to create a different kind of business which will attract a different customer. The concept of the wine store that Mr. Keim has proposed will indeed need to be different to succeed with very successful liquor store operations nearby.

The ordinance change would make the rest of the City consistent with the distance requirements of downtown (for wine only) and most importantly bring the City more into step with the communities that surround the East Side where no distance requirements exist. If the City wants to compete to attract new businesses, it must look at what the suburbs offer that tempt entrepreneurs to leave the City. We think these are the best reasons for supporting the change that would allow operations of this kind to compete nearer than the half mile limit.

We think Mr. Keim's plan could enable his business to stay open, a new asset to take hold, and bring the City's distance regulations up to speed. We welcome this kind of innovation and creative thinking on the East Side. Thanks for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Paris Dunning  
Executive Director

