

From: Nick Nadeau <info@1stgrandaveliquors.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 11:12 AM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
Subject: 300 foot wine sales ordinance

Hello my name is Nick Nadeau and I own 1st Grand Avenue Liquors on Grand Avenue in St Paul. I am writing to you asking you to please vote against this ordinance allowing a 300 foot distance between wine shops. I see that this is the request of a small beer pub on the East side that is too close to another liquor store to sell wine. When you change this ordinance it's not just for that small beer pub, it opens up wine sales to every grocery store in town. I know it's hard to believe but just having more outlets for wine doesn't make people drink more. The city will not get more money from sales tax as the amount of product being purchased doesn't really change. It puts people out of business by breaking up the pieces of the pie and taking money out of upstanding businesses that are already having a hard time. I know this from personal experience. In 1996 I opened up a wine shop in Woodbury and did very well for about 5 years until they allowed stores on every corner. It took about a year and we went out of business when there were 19 operating stores in the 3 mile area. Then all the grocery stores took over and now there is no family owned wine shops in Woodbury. Please consider the fact that we have enough outlets for wine and help keep our upstanding family owned stores up and running.  
Thank you  
Nick Nadeau  
1st Grand Avenue Liquors

**From:** Amy Haen <amydhaen@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2020 2:40 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Council <Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Yoerg Wine Store!

Dear Council Members,

I would like to encourage you to vote to give Yoerg Brewery a license to operate a wine store in the space next to the pub. I would love to see this wonderful space expanded to give the east side a decent, affordable selection of wines available for purchase. I believe they would do St. Paul's East Side proud! I would definitely support their business and hope you to do. Tom and Carole are dedicated to providing a quality product and top-notch customer service. They love St. Paul!  
Amy Anderson

From: Deanna Kossett <dkossett@comcast.net>  
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 11:23 AM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Council <Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
Subject: Yoerg

Good morning,  
Just writing to ask that you consider approving Yoerg's request to add a wine shop to their business. Yoerg is a great business and this could help them survive during this very difficult time.

Thank you for your time,

Regards, Deanna Kossett

From: Mark Wegne <wegne009@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 8:18 PM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Yoerg Brewing Companies Request

Dear Saint Paul City Council:

I write to you today as a private citizen, having no vested interest in this issue.

I am a life-long resident of the East Side, a registered voter, homeowner, and property taxpayer.

I strongly encourage you to support Yoerg Brewing Companies request to open a wine shop next door to their brewery in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

This store would be approximately 1 mile from my home and I would see it as a benefit, not see it as a detriment to our neighborhood.

Tell the lobbying group from MLBA (Minnesota Liquor Business Association) to GO TO HELL as they attempt to obstruct this and several other changes. Yes, these are the lame asses who obstruct grocery stores from selling wine and beer, and liquor stores from being open on Sunday, not to mention the asinine laws governing bars and craft brewers.

Time for the City of St. Paul, and the State of Minnesota, to draft a Take the Handcuffs off of Business (3.2 liquor sales, Sunday Car Sales, business hours of operation among them) and allow the free market to work.

Thank you,  
Mark Wegner

-----Original Message-----

From: jimmorelli@morellismarket.com <jimmorelli@morellismarket.com>

Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 9:26 AM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: new liquor off sale proposal

Good Morning Jane.

I understand that there will be put before the council a proposal to change the current half-mile restriction to a 300 ft distance restriction regarding off-sale liquor licensing. I am opposed to this as you would expect. I do agree with the arguments opposing this change put forth by the MLBA.

That this would be devastating to public safety and create more losers than winners, as the already competitive off sale business will be carved up to unheard levels.

That there has been no public outcry for more alcohol outlets.

That there is no solid reasoning to change the half-mile restriction.

That customers have ample access to liquor store outlets across St. Paul.

Thank you for your consideration and all of the good work that you do for the city in these difficult times.

Sincerely

Jimmy Morelli

From: Kelly S. <lesjalady24@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:44 PM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
Subject: Wine store

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Hi,

I urge you to support the Yeorg Brewing company plan to add a wine store. I strongly support the need for a higher level wine seller. I'm not sure why this seems to be upsetting for some people. We have to put up with all the crime, smoke shops and scary liquor stores that I no longer feel comfortable shopping at. Add some class to the neighborhood please or the rest of us will be leaving the city.

BTW Tell the Mayor to wake up and start funding more services to our amazing police force that is stretched too thin all ready.

From: Bill Sharbono <sharbono.bill@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 7:04 PM  
To: contact-council@ci.stpaul; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
Subject: Yoerg "wine shop"

Good evening,  
I would love to see Tom at Yoerg Brewery be able to open the wine shop in the adjacent space. It'll bolster his already wonderful little brewery & be a great source for wine in the neighborhood.  
Please vote yes to the wine shop!

Thanks much,  
Bill

**From:** gary brown <[gbrown@xmn.com](mailto:gbrown@xmn.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2020 2:34 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <[Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Cc:** Prince, Jane (CI-StPaul) <[Jane.Prince@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Jane.Prince@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Tom Keim Wine Bar Permit

Dear Council:

Yoerg Brewery and Pub has been a wonderful addition to our Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. Prior to Covid it was a classic neighborhood pub where you could find everyone from every walk of life. Groups of people would form up and a grand time would be had by all. In short, it was the kind of place that was more akin to a family-oriented British pub than an old east-side dive bar. At the helm of this is Tom Keim. His vision is what's made Yoergs what it is.

On your docket is an application from Tom to add a wine shop to his facility. Not a liquor store. Not a beer shop. A *wine* shop. And not any wine shop, one that's being designed to sell great bottles at prices that mere mortals can afford. As with the pub, he's coming up with a plan that's aimed firmly at the folks in our neighborhood. Our demographics are changing. Over where I live in Mounds Park we're seeing a wonderful mix of new and old families. We're also seeing an influx of people such as my wife and I who moved in four

years ago from a BIG house up in the Cathedral Hill neighborhood. Up there we got used to Solo Vino. It was a treat to walk over and "see what's new". We need that in our current neighborhood. There are few shops on our end of town that cater to someone looking for something a little better than some Australian kangaroo-themed red wine. A Yoerg wine shop would fill that niche.

Tom is an expert on wines. He "knows his stuff". Every glass we've had in the pub has been a delight. We'd like to have that same experience at home. Please approve his application for the shop. The East Side needs it. In this time of businesses closing down, having a new shop open up would be a welcome change.

With regards,  
Gary Brown  
117 Bates Avenue

PS. Full disclosure: I'm a member of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. This note is being written by me just "as me".

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**From:** Dana Rose <dsrose49@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 4:27 PM  
**To:** Tony Chesak <tony@mlba.com>  
**Cc:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Proposed Ordinance

Dear Mr. Chesak,

Tony, thanks for sending us a letter with information on the proposed ordinance changing the current distance requirements for 'off-sale' licenses in the city of Saint Paul.

The proposal would create additional 'wine only' off-sale licenses and these proposed 'new' licenses can be as close as 300' from an established off-sale license. I understand and agree with the MLBA's opposition to such a proposal. The addition of new alcohol off-sale licenses would seem to be unnecessary, especially with a new distancing requirement. Your letter stated that this proposal would allow four *'wine only' off-sale establishments to operate within each half-mile radius from another off-sale license*. Tony, can you put a figure on how many licenses would be established? Also, where is this demand coming from? The enforced distancing laws are in force for public safety and economic freedom.

My partner, Jim Forsland, and I have been in business since 1976. We hold the off-sale license for Sharrett's Liquors. Over that period of time to the present, there have been numerous attempts to change licensing legislation (many attempts for wine in grocery stores and big-box chains, for example) continue to be proposed for changes in the law. We, in the industry, have not only been burdened with unfair competition (large liquor and grocery stores chains, Sunday sales, and questionable purchasing powers that do not exist for the rest of the industry) but it also has the effect of diminished revenue and causing the downsizing of our staff, creating the very real possibility of store closures for a family-owned and operated businesses, ours included. This may sound like 'oh pity me', but in reality, it's about time for the council to preserve and protect the long-established base of the hospitality industry from legislation that would do more harm than good. You also mentioned hearing that this has to do with the city needing additional tax revenue. Would this legislation increase or decrease revenue? We suggest that this proposal would increase unemployment and decrease

revenue, especially during the pandemic. Thus, in effect, making the cities position unacceptable. Therefore, does that mean the city would need to find an old source of revenue...Property Taxes? Ouch.

Further, we would like to explore the need for additional licenses. Our industry has seen a dramatic decrease in wine sales. The new legislation would be unfair for both established and newly created licenses. The reality is how can a 'wine only' shop be profitable and competitive and continue in business w/o the sale of spirits and malt beverages of which the latter has been increasing by leaps and bounds? The future of beer sales, with the growing number of breweries and brewpubs, will only increase. Also, top-shelf liquor sales are booming, creating shortages, rationing, and cutthroat pricing. This will also drive wine sales down further and, as can be expected, will only make these 'wine only' licenses clamoring to the council demanding full off-sale liquor licenses, and then what of the distancing requirement?.

We believe this proposal is poorly thought out and can only be detrimental to the existing business climate in our city. We have sent this email to all council members and the mayor. To all involved, we say thank you for your concern and listening to reasonable, rational opinions. Please do not pass this legislation.

Respectfully,

Dana Rose  
Jim Forsland  
Sharrett's Liquors

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**From:** Luke Gulbranson <lukegulbranson@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 7:17 PM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

**Subject:** Ordinance regarding distance requirements

Dear Councilmembers Tolbert and Prince,

My name is Luke Gulbranson and I own Liquor Village at 2289 Ford Parkway St. Paul, MN 55116 in the Highland neighborhood.

I've owned Liquor Village now a little over 8 years, it is a staple in the historic Highland Park neighborhood and has been serving the people for over 50 years. It has served hundreds of daily workers at the Ford Plant and continues to serve the ever growing and changing neighborhood.

The recent proposal regarding distance requirements that was brought to my attention brings me great frustration and disbelief. One of the reasons why I purchased my business in St. Paul was because of the requirements that the city provided with the distance between stores. The city has not allowed stores to stack up on one another like the suburbs have done. Which in turn protects small local business and keep more money in the community.

Another point I would like to raise is the issue of neighborhood safety and concern of crime increase, including underage buying of alcohol and tobacco. With more access to alcohol there will be an increase in underage purchasing and an increase in theft and robbery. In the last six months I have seen an increase two fold of theft and attempted assaults at my place of business. I do not think the current climate allows us to be short sighted about adding more high profile targets for crime such as liquor stores.

If we allow this close of proximity for liquor stores our homegrown local businesses will have to fight with big box stores like Total Wine when they inevitably come to the market. Not to mention the lack of enthusiasm surrounding the demand for more liquor stores. The current saturation levels in most neighborhoods regarding

liquor stores has already settled in with the historical supply / demand of the area. The competition between stores in most areas is already very real and robust not to mention the current regulation regarding the half-mile buffer is already encroached on when you include stores that were "grandfathered" in.

With the current proposal of a mere 300ft between liquor stores we could theoretically see them on every corner and that does not reflect the values of our small tight-knit neighborhoods. It would drastically alter the makeup of our streets and unfortunately bring more unwanted elements of crime and give the youth even much more access to tobacco and alcohol.

Thank you for your time and efforts regarding my concerns. I would like to talk to you by phone regarding this proposal. I look forward to speaking to you.

Sincerely Luke Gulbranson

- Store # 651-699-7070

**From:** Danielle Urbank <daniurbank@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2020 7:35 PM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

**Subject:** Wine Shop

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of the Yoerg Brewing Company and the wine shop they want to open next door. Yoerg has been an excellent addition to the East Side and a wine shop would enhance it even more. There is currently nowhere to find new and exciting wines in this neighborhood, and the fact that they want to focus on bottles \$20 and under makes it even more desirable. The ordinance saying it must be a "radius" of half a mile and not a physical way to get there needs to be changed. No one is flying between liquor stores. Small businesses are facing enough of an uphill battle already in this economy, why make it harder for them? I hope you consider allowing Yoerg to open this store and add a unique new experience to the East Side.

Thank you,

Danielle Urbank

Ward 6 resident, Yoerg Brewery aficionado