

REDACTED RECORD

Melendez-Hagedorn, Yadira

From: Williams, Terri
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 11:50 AM
To: Cooney, Jim; Melendez-Hagedorn, Yadira; Dimitrijevic, Marina
Cc:
Subject: Testimony re: 733 W Oklahoma

Constituent requests the below letter drafted after the neighborhood meeting be placed into the file and read in as testimony for Mal De Amor license hearing. He is not able to attend.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 10:42 AM
To: Dimitrijevic, Marina <Marina@milwaukee.gov>; Williams, Terri <Terri.Williams@milwaukee.gov>
Cc: Melendez-Hagedorn, Yadira <Y.Melendez-Hagedorn@milwaukee.gov>; krollgregory@yahoo.com <krollgregory@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: 733 W Oklahoma

Dear Marina, Terri, Yadira;

Unfortunately I did not notice an email(sent to me) regarding the Wed hearing?
Just this weekend, I was made aware of the hearing by a neighbor,
and respectfully will not be able to be present via internet, nor phone(on business travel);

I met with immediate area neighbors again this weekend;
I would like to request that my response "below" (regarding the prior meeting held
at the bar location), be presented/submitted, to be read aloud during,
and/or for the hearing/committee review,

Any questions...pls let me know?
Thank you,
Kevin (9th and Oklahoma Ave)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 12:10 PM
To: Dimitrijevic, Marina <Marina@milwaukee.gov>; Williams, Terri <Terri.Williams@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: FW: 733 W Oklahoma

Re: Bar...733 W Oklahoma Ave

Hello again;
I thought the meeting over...and I've talked to immediate neighbors,
have listed comments/things to think more about, consider...
some points may be redundant;

It's obvious and I appreciated the candor of the consultant(Harvey?)
As he stated...that they 'have to call the place a restaurant, in order to be open as a bar'?!
As I initially had/and continue to believe.. the ultimate goal/plan... is to be "a bar"...?!?
Although we have a multitude of immediate area restaurants, places serving Mexican food (and other fare),
A nice controlled atmosphere/respectable Mexican "restaurant" would better than a "bar", for sure..
Though, the owners mentioned live music, karaoke, salsa dancing etc (the intent/goal, that this is to be a bar?!).
I don't know of many "restaurants" that offer that array things and whatever else they may come up with??.
They also seemed to put up resistance to the idea of curbing their hours,
to operating under more usual restaurant type hours.. especially on weekends??
(As you know, weekends were 95% of the problems with/related to broad reckless behavior, menacing patrons of the
former place, disregard for neighbors/property, menacing driving, etc);

We'd like to know who will actually run/manage the place?, especially on weekends, at closing time,
etc...supposedly, the wall/excuse put up by the past owner, was that they lived
in the neighborhood, that they were part of it, (yet were blocks away, on 7th?),
and understood the situation?!..really?
I think it's fair to say, that those of us on Oklahoma experienced/endured more dramatically,
differently than others off Oklahoma(though im sure some those residents closer to Oklahoma
had their share of negative experiences too)...
brings up another question...would the owners be active in the business, present at closing?,
or will they hire someone that doesn't care, then be tucked away, enjoying their sleep in their residence elsewhere??

Here again(in one email) is just "some of the issues/problems" experienced regarding patrons arriving and leaving
(usually was most prevalent from 9-10pm to 3:30+ am, weekends-always)
loud obnoxious people/groups/patrons, often drunk patrons congregating on the street upon arrival, during hours and
after close, arguments/fighting(male and 'female'), breaking glass, littering, urinating in public(not limited to ..in/on the
street- in front yards, even pooping in public!), loud music from vehicles, shots fired(was always nervous about shottng
inside the bar??) roaring of vehicle engines especially the souped up trucks, Suv's, extremely loud mufflers(or lack of
mufflers), screeching/squealing tires, menacing driving activities,
burning rubber(incl doing 360's in the st), drag racing, and return racing (dangerous/using both sides of the st/east and
west), multiple accidents(DUI??), and so on...

The consultant, the owners, and assumingly just about every one there,
agreed that the business can not control patron behavior before they arrive, and
most importantly, behavior/actions when, after they leave the premise...
notably, the consultant(Harvey) seems to think that's not their problem...
yet I believe it is, and it's a big problem that will yet exist, no matter who is in there
operating as a bar, a restaurant, or the like?! The lady owner stated/admitted they
plan on selling drinks till 2:00 am, cause that's were they can make most money..
SO....from a macro-view, Il again bring up this very important, impactful point...
None of the past, nor future problems, issues, etc,...(related to patrons
menacing activities, and/or the premises, bar/business itself) may/would be present
if such type of place was NOT THERE operating in the first place...
simply put...no bar/restaurant, no bar/restaurant related mayhem/menacing activity, issues...

Ref to Harvey the consultant gent...after the one neighbor lady, asked "what do we get out of it"?,
He sure hesitated for a bit, though eventually said ...'home values would increase'?.
I myself have invested in real estate/properties...I don't see it at all and
to me, his answer was meant to be a quick fuzzy feeling-my opinion, that answer is total
BS...(can we get anything supporting his answer?)

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Obviously, undesirable bar operations/patrons in a neighborhood can surely suppress, hinder, and often depreciate home values...

Officer Ward brought up the mention, that abandoned neighborhood buildings are not a good thing, I don't disagree; I've lived in the neighborhood/on Oklahoma most of my life... over 50 years. The 733 place/structure is basically a large house, has a nice flat above; it's not a visible, decomposing complex or the sorts... No one would miss it; it's not necessarily a big time eyesore either... Also, the place can certainly be used for other business!?

I could go on, but there's probably no need, especially in consideration of your time; The couple seems nice, hopefully good people, and maybe have the best intentions, YET..as we know, they/the business will not be able to control their patrons, their actions- especially when the leave, at closing time or other?! I applaud them for considering a security guard, but I see that as probably more beneficial inside, not outside.. (IE. shooting at El Ray foods.)

With all said (and with apologies, that I could have again probably just focused on the patron issues?) I am a bit torn, as it would be nice to have a Mexican food "restaurant" in walking distance, but i/we surely don't want to go back to any of the past recklessness, patron issues and so on.. I know there are other pros and cons, views and comments from others to consider,

After the meeting, I felt lil more comfortable with the couple/themselves, And again, seem like nice people... yet im yet highly skeptical (not specially of their operation/intent), but to that of "any owner/operator" of the kind (whether called a restaurant, bar or the like)- being allowed to open/operate due to the past and broad recklessness, patron issues disrespect/lack of consideration for the immediate neighbors/community, etc...

... I feel for the couple, as they've probably already spent some money on the place, etc not knowing headwinds, and the historical, horrid past they were dealing with; Unfortunately, from experience/logic...I fear much of the same broad recklessness, chaos/mayhem related patron issues will continue if this, or any like business is allowed there. though and to be fair, I will note that I, nor any of us have a crystal ball;

In closing, and as mentioned before... it has been "noticeably" tamer, quieter, all around less hectic-chaotic, Especially noticeably much better around here w/o the bar and patrons, menacing activities of operations, and whatever else it brings. It would be nice to keep it that way; other immediate neighbors feel the same... Enduring even some of the past issues(going forward), is too much, even a couple times a night or weekend- is too much.. chaos with the men's barbershop on 9th, liquor store 9th pl and all that goes with it(speeding, extremely load racing of engines/loud mufflers, screeching of tires/peeling out, reckless driving(endangering others) , and so on IS WAY MORE THAN ENOUGH, adding this bar activity is not wanted...people don't go to a bar to have a glass of milk!!

Im open to compromise...I wouldn't feel as strongly towards a trying a "true restaurant", Especially when reasonable closing hours were placed upon it...say closing at 10pm.?! We all know the true intent here is a "bar" and to attract drinking people; the lady owner Said it herself...

Thank you so much for your attention and consideration...

Please let me know if you would like to chat about, meet etc?

Happy to do so...

Regards,

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