

Editorial

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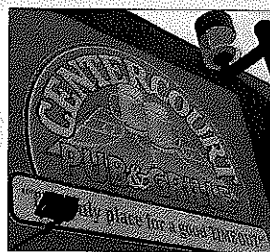
City building wrong for exotic dance club

THE ISSUE: A proposal from the owner of Silk Exotic to open an exotic dance club in a city of Milwaukee-owned building near the BMO Harris Bradley Center

OUR STANCE: The city should not be in the business of leasing public-owned space to Silk Exotic, especially given the prime location near the downtown sports and entertainment facility.

It is no secret that the city of Milwaukee has struggled to find a tenant for its commercial property located in a parking structure across from the BMO Harris Bradley Center.

Its most recent tenant, Centercourt Pub & Grille, closed in January 2013 owing \$192,000 in back rent. It was the latest in a series of restaurants that have failed at the property over the last several years, leaving Milwaukee aldermen and city officials frustrated at the lack of success at the prime location



near the downtown sports and entertainment facility.

The Milwaukee Public Works Department, which handles the building, came under heavy criticism earlier this year in the wake of Centercourt's closing. DPW officials last month issued a request for proposals for the site, seeking a

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SPACE to this type of business.

new tenant. But even with the struggles, the city should not approve a new proposal from Silk Exotic to open a dance club at the property.

Silk Exotic has been trying for years to open a club in downtown Milwaukee, but aldermen recently rejected a proposal for 730 N. Old World Third St., near the Wisconsin Center. Neighbors and businesses argued the facility would harm redevelopment efforts in the area, including at The Shops of Grand Avenue.

The same arguments are expected for the new proposal, with the added point that the city should not be leasing a public-owned space to this type of business.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett is right when he says the proposal should be rejected. Aldermen should follow his lead.