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March 17, 2009

Honorable Louis Butler  
c/o Tobie Black  
License Division  
City Hall, Room 105

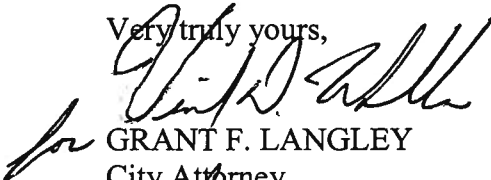
Re: Suggestion for Alcohol Beverage Licensing Task Force

Dear Justice Butler:

In addition to the previous suggestions we have made regarding bringing more transparency to the processing of alcohol beverage licenses, we believe that it would be the best practice for Licenses Committee members to refrain from making indications of support or opposition to any new license application or renewal. However, if a Licenses Committee member does present relevant facts to the Committee, then we recommend that this member should abstain from voting on this matter at the Committee. This would not preclude that member from voting on the matter when it comes before the full Common Council.

The basis of this recommendation is two-fold. First, there is due process and the need to have the Licenses Committee recommendation free of any hint of pre-judgment or bias. Second, since the concept of aldermanic privilege has received considerable attention, we believe that alderpersons refraining from openly opposing or supporting a license and voting on the license in Committee will alleviate the appearance of aldermanic privilege.

Very truly yours,

  
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