

District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA)
Re: BZA Case No. 12799A
Request for Modification of Consequences
6201 Third St., NW (VIP Room)
Washington, DC 20011

Dear Board of Zoning Adjustment,

My name is Sherrika Callis and I reside at 6110 3rd St NW, where I grew up as a child and moved back in 2013. My home is located approximately 50 to 100 feet from the VIP Room. I strongly opposed the “minor-modification” of the VIP Room’s license which has been incorrectly characterized in the memorandum in the file for this proceeding by case manager Steven J. Mordfin at the Office of Planning dated November 16, 2018.

I join my neighbors who reside in close proximity to the VIP Room, who have also registered strong opposition to granting the VIP Room the right to sell alcohol on the premises (see letters in opposition from David Owens, Jim Stehle, Suzanne Grinnan, Jay Ferrari and Amber Husbands). In consideration of the VIP Room’s request for license modification, I urge you to review past decisions issued by BZA, dated January 29, 1979 and by the Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) dated November 1, 2017. These Orders impose conditions that state “the license holder should not sell alcohol on the premises...” because of the impact of the quality of life of the VIP Room’s neighbors. These Orders are consistent with prior decisions by ABRA on March 22, 2016, as affirmed by the DC Court of Appeals on March 29, 2016. This decision denied the VIP Room’s request for Retailer C Class license to sell alcohol on the premises and operate like a tavern or night club.

To set the record straight, the VIP Room’s request is a major modification of current license conditions. If approved, it will fundamentally and significantly impact the neighborhood by inviting crime, litter and loitering. It will represent a major step, which would eventually lead the VIP Room to turn into a tavern or nightclub. There is a significant difference between the VIP Room being permitted to serve alcohol on the premises versus being able to sell alcohol on the premises!

I am very concerned that we have not been given notice concerning the requested changes. There has been no outreach by the VIP Room or the Office of Planning. As a result, there is significant outrage from the neighborhood. In my view, the issue is how to maintain a proper balance between the objectives of protecting this quiet, safe neighborhood surrounded by daycare centers, schools, churches and a progressive family environment versus enhancing the financial viability of the VIP Room.

I hope you will seriously consider my comments. Thank you for this opportunity to provide you with my views.

Sincerely,

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 12799A
EXHIBIT NO. 17

Sherrika Callis