

November 15, 2017

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
441 4th St, NW  
Suite 200-210-S  
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA Application #19650

To whom this may concern:

I live within 200 feet of the premise that has requested the special exception for a corner store with beer and wine sales. I vehemently oppose granting this exception.

On the adjacent corner of the applicant's location (Fairmont Street and Sherman Avenue), a corner store with beer and wine sales exist already. Its proximity to Howard University attracts a significant number of underage students seeking to purchase alcohol. The Washington City Paper has reported this problem.<sup>i</sup> Thus, granting this application seems will exaggerate this problem.

This application for beer and wine sales does not appear will add any significant value to the nearby neighborhood. Two additional corner stores with beer and wine sales within a three-block radius of the applicant's location also exist already at Fairmont and 11th Streets, and at Sherman Avenue and Harvard Streets. Hence, this area will become oversaturated with beer and wine sales if this exception is granted.

Adding yet another store with beer and wine sales within a short distance increases the potential for violence and other negative outcomes in the surrounding blocks. According to the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation<sup>ii</sup>:

- Underage drinkers **more** likely purchase alcohol in a store rather than in a bar or restaurant.
- In neighborhoods where there are many outlets that sell high-alcohol beer and spirits, **more** violent assaults occur.
- Further, this study points out that even when levels of poverty, and the age and the ethnic background of residents are considered, a high density of [alcohol] outlets is **strongly** related to violence regardless of a neighborhood's economic, ethnic or age status.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Joseph Watson  
905 Euclid Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

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<sup>i</sup> Brydon, Spencer. 2014, December. *Problem Liquor Stores at 14th and U and in Columbia Heights Seek Liquor License Renewal*. <http://shortarticlesaboutlongmeetings.blogspot.com/2015/03/problem-liquor-stores-at-14th-and-u-and.html>).

<sup>ii</sup> Stewart, Kathryn. United States. Prevention Research Center. *How Alcohol Outlets Affect Neighborhood Violence*. Oakland, CA. <http://resources.prev.org/documents/AlcoholViolenceGruenewald.pdf>.