

CARAG Resolution

15 August 2006

Re: AfterBar Restaurant Liquor License

Whereas, AfterBar Restaurant has applied to the city for a full liquor license for 913 W. Lake St. and plans to serve alcoholic beverages until 2:00 A.M. daily and to serve food until 4:00 A.M. daily; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis held a public hearing on the requested liquor license on August 2, 2006 (which the applicant packed with friends and supporters) and the CARAG Zoning Committee held a public meeting immediately following the conclusion of the city's public hearing to discuss the matter and take any additional public input; and

Whereas, CARAG makes the following findings regarding the proposed establishment and liquor license:

1. The proposed use and hours are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the livability of the nearby, surrounding residential area. Area residents report existing negative impacts from existing liquor-serving establishments in the area including late night noise from people talking loudly and from slamming car doors, and nuisance crimes such as public urination—particularly around bar-closing time of 2:00 A.M. The noise impacts would continue with trash and recycling collection (including crashing beer bottles) and deliveries around 5:00 to 7:00 A.M. and these trucks traveling down the residential portion of the alley to the south.
2. The proposed location is not appropriate for a restaurant that serves liquor until 2:00 A.M. and food until 4:00 A.M. due to the close proximity of many residential units. CARAG has worked hard to limit the hours of liquor-serving restaurants along this stretch of Lake St., between the Hennepin-Lake and Lyn-Lake commercial nodes, to 11:00 P.M. during the week and 12:00 midnight on weekends (e.g., Tum Rup Thai, its predecessor Wild Noodles, and Pizza Nea). Late-night establishments belong in the commercial nodes where their impacts would be less as residential uses tend to be further away.
3. The cumulative effect of the number of liquor licenses in the Uptown area is detrimental to neighborhood livability. We may have already reached the tipping point. We encourage the city to carefully study the issue of liquor license impacts, saturation, and tipping points, and neighborhood livability impacts.
4. Granting the requested liquor license (and conditional use permit for extended hours for 4:00 A.M. restaurant closing) would set an important precedent for this stretch of Lake St.—allowing 2:00 A.M. closing for all restaurants if desired by their owners—which we strongly oppose.
5. The applicant had not provided, by the time of the public hearing, information about how the off-street parking requirement would be met. The applicant has since informed the city that

parking will be provided in a lot across Lake St. behind DreamHaven Books. This lot is bordered by four houses to the east and an apartment building to the north; these residents would have significant late-night noise impacts from loud talking, car radios, and slamming car doors, as area residents already report from other area establishments such as Bryant Lake Bowl. In addition, on-street parking is not permitted on Lake St. between 1:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. daily. The applicant has provided insufficient information with regard utility, number of spaces, and noise mitigation.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that CARAG recommends denial of the liquor license requested by AfterBar Restaurant based on the above findings; and

Be it further resolved that CARAG would recommend approval of a liquor license for the proposed establishment only if serving of alcoholic beverages ceases at 11:00 P.M. Sunday through Thursday and 12:00 midnight on Fridays and Saturdays and if adequate off-street parking is provided in a location that would not have significant detrimental impacts on surrounding residential properties.

Vote: 28-10-2