

★ Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

36

Date April 9, 2012

Request from Council Member Moore and Council Member Griess to discuss letter from the Drake-area neighbors, regarding liquor license for University Groceries, 2121 University Avenue.

Moved by _____ to

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GRIESS				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
MOORE				
TOTAL				

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

Mayor

City Clerk

March 28, 2012

Tony Dassan
University Groceries
2121 University Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50311

RE: Liquor License For Public Nuisance University Groceries

Dear Mr. Dassan:

This letter follows a meeting of homeowners who live near your liquor store, University Groceries at 2121 University Avenue in Des Moines, IA 50311. We are homemakers, educators, social workers, construction workers, and employees in the medical and legal fields who work and spend significant time and money on our properties to improve our neighborhood for the sake of our children, safety and home values. We are not including our names because we are fearful of your patrons.

Nearly every day we are forced to endure the menace created by University Groceries. Incidentally, we find the name of your store ironic, as it is obvious you are not selling groceries; you are a liquor store.

Your patrons park their vehicles for extended periods outside your liquor store blasting music so loud it wakes us when we are inside our homes with closed windows. The loud noise coming from the patrons of your liquor store negatively affects the sleep our children need, disturbs their study time, disrupts our family time, meals, television viewing, and attempts to spend any time outdoors. And clearly you have done nothing to stop it.

Your customers loiter outside your building, leaning against it while drinking, cursing, shouting and fighting. (We're not talking a few persons. Recently, one of us called police to complain about the loiterers you allow on your property and counted over thirty individuals.) Our families are forced to endure your patrons' drunken profanities, flashed gang symbols, and shouts at passersby. The individuals you allow to loiter outside your liquor store have upset our home lives and neighborhood in general. And clearly you have done nothing to stop it.

Daily, we observe a constant parade of your customers open their purchased brown-bagged alcohol containers and guzzle it immediately upon leaving leave your store, then litter our streets and yards with the liquor bottles and cans. And clearly you have done nothing to stop it.

Additionally, the prostitutes whom you allow to loiter outside your liquor store draw an additional unwelcome element to our neighborhood. And clearly you have done nothing to stop it.

We are fed up and exhausted with your liquor store, the annoyance and danger (Several of us witnessed two recent assaults there and, of course, your liquor store was the site of homicidal shooting in October 2010.) it brings to our neighborhood, as well as your lack of response to any of it. It is our hope the Des Moines City Council does not renew your liquor license, as you are profiting from the creation of a public nuisance. You wouldn't want this type of business in your neighborhood, please don't inflict it on us. Shame on you! Do something! Do better!

Thank you for your time and attention to our concerns. These letters will continue periodically and shall reflect any improvement or effort toward that.

Sincerely,

Your Displeased Neighbors in the Drake Area

- CC: Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie
- Des Moines City Council Member Christine Hensley
- Des Moines City Council Member Halley Griess
- Des Moines City Council Member Christopher Coleman
- Des Moines City Council Member Skip Moore
- Des Moines Police Chief Judy Bradshaw
- Des Moines Police Sergeant Dave Mulford
- Drake Neighborhood President Deric Gourd