

523 West Eighth Street
Appleton, WI 54911
December 11, 2016

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2016

City of Appleton Plan Commission
City Hall – 100 North Appleton Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54911

CITY OF APPLETON
COMMUNITY/ECON DEVELOPMENT

RE: Request for Special Use Permit for a Parking Lot (Tax ID #31-3-0851)

Dear Plan Commission:

In response to the notice we recently received regarding Outagamie County's request to tear down an existing building (Tax ID #31-3-0851) and turn into a parking lot, we are writing to let the Plan Commission know we are strongly opposed to this request as a tax payer and resident in close proximity to the proposed site. We are opposed to this for the following reasons:

- 1) In looking at the document, the demolition of the building will only yield 14 parking spots. The recent reconfiguration of stalls on Walnut Street appears to have netted similar results without the cost. This seems like a very small number of parking spots gained considering the cost of tearing down the building, loss of office space, and relocation of services. What is the return on investment (ROI) for this request?
- 2) The current building serves somewhat as a buffer to the loud music from the Fox River House. During the summer, the noise from this bar can be an issue depending on the bands booked. Sometime we cannot even hear our TV even though all of our windows are closed. One of our neighbors has complained and advocated for us, but has gotten nowhere in this regard. We are extremely concerned that with the loss of this building the music will get even louder and the parking lot will turn into an extension of the bar on weekends. Which also raises some additional concerns for us as our Alderperson is the owner of this establishment and directly benefits from the addition of this parking lot. What is the City's Policy when it comes to an Alderperson with a Conflict of Interest (e.g., potential to financially benefit from a decision) and ensuring residents are being properly represented?
- 3) Parking lot may increase traffic on our street and we have young children.

Again, we strongly urge the Plan Commission to reject this request; however, if a decision is made to move forward, we would ask that natural sound barriers be added into the design and that the only entrance to the lot be on Walnut Street. We would appreciate a response to our above concerns and questions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Schaff



Kirk Rattray

cc: David Kress, Alderperson Patti Coenen