

Item #40

Barton-Holmes, Christine

From: Timothy Eckler
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 8:25 AM
To: Leffingwell, Lee; Cole, Sheryl; Morrison, Laura; Martinez, Mike [Council Member]; Riley, Chris; Spelman, William; Tovo, Kathie
Cc: Barton-Holmes, Christine
Subject: 5425 Burnet Road (Case Number SPC-2013-0169C 30JAN2014)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Late Backup

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

I'm writing to share my objections and urge you to VOTE AGAINST A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT for a proposed Little Woodrow's cocktail lounge at 5425 Burnet Road (Case number SPC-2013-0169C before you 30 Jan 2014).

The site plan, as put forward by the applicant, is not suited to the physical limitations of the location and the pedestrian and residential character of the surrounding neighborhoods. Because of concerns about noise, traffic, parking, and safety, neighbors and representatives of the Brentwood and Allandale neighborhood associations asked that the site plan be modified to address these issues. Neighbors offered the provisions below. None were included in the conditional use permit as rejected by the Planning Commission.

- require 1 am closing on Friday and Saturday rather than the current 2 am provision
- move outdoor noise-generating activity inside each night by 8 pm
- close doors, windows and other interior outlets each night by 10 pm
- prohibit outdoor live music
- prohibit outdoor amplified sound
- prohibit street deliveries
- calculate parking based on liquor-storage as well as liquor-serving areas

Among the many reasons put forward by neighbors to vote against this conditional use permit, I'd like to emphasize in particular the risks to public safety posed by inadequate parking and increased vehicular traffic from bar patrons on Burnet Road as well as spill-over on residential side streets in the area. For example, the street on which I live, Montview, parallels Burnet Road one block to the west. It lacks sidewalks and has no posted speed limits or speed-limiting devices such as road humps. It carries steady pedestrian traffic including handicapped residents in motorized wheel chairs during the 6 am to 1 am hours of operation of the HEB grocery at Burnet and Koenig. Spill-over traffic and parking from Burnet on neighborhood streets like mine increase congestion and threaten harm to pedestrians and property. Similarly, Burnet Road itself narrows south of Koenig in the vicinity of this proposed project - too narrow to include a center-turn lane. Coupled with the proposed project's on-Burnet parking (head-in and parallel) and as-yet-unimproved sidewalks, these limitations threaten city aims for a safe, accessible, and walkable urban corridor and area neighborhoods.

Neighbors proposed the site plan restrictions above believing that agreement with the applicant along these lines could help extend a climate of commercial responsibility in this part of the Burnet road corridor consistent with its essentially residential character. Without such agreement I urge you to vote against this conditional use permit.

Barton-Holmes, Christine

From: David Lancaster [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 5:12 PM
To: Leffingwell, Lee; Cole, Sheryl; Martinez, Mike [Council Member]; Tovo, Kathie; Riley, Chris; Spelman, William; Morrison, Laura
Cc: Barton-Holmes, Christine
Subject: Lil Woodrow's application for Burnet Road and Houston Street waiver

To: Austin City Council

We in the Allendale-Brentwood area are already abundantly served when it comes to bars and restaurants on Burnet Road. Adding yet another will not make us "more well-served," we will be over-served.

Over-served folks—especially if they have shown themselves to be in that state—are typically not those you want moving around, whether on foot, in a vehicle or organizing political gatherings. I know that you have already heard from a significant number of friends and neighbors expressing opposition to the conditional use permit and waiver for a Lil Woodrow's at Burnet & Houston; please hear us and respond appropriately.

Speaking as individuals as well as through our community organizations, a clear, consistent message has been sent..."No, we don't want the additional traffic—vehicular or commercial—that granting Lil Woodrow's this waiver will bring." We don't want it; you don't need it. Over-serving your community / constituents this way is not how you make them either safe or happy. Please help us...say "enough" to this ill-conceived, and worse received, idea once and for all.

David Lancaster
1601 Houston Street #11
Austin, TX 78756-1316
512/474-1559 (home)
512/656-6599 (cell)
512/478-7386 (office)

P.S. Monday afternoon's negotiations between city staff and Lil Woodrow's representatives regarding parking issues did not produce a more acceptable proposal as reported. It is still unacceptable—if not worse. Reducing the number of "attached" (on-site or directly adjacent) spots only pushes more cars deeper into the contiguous neighborhoods, further exacerbating the problem.

Barton-Holmes, Christine

From: J Kniseley [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 3:06 PM
To: Leffingwell, Lee; Cole, Sheryl; Martinez, Mike [Council Member]; Tovo, Kathie; Riley, Chris; Spelman, William; Morrison, Laura
Cc: Barton-Holmes, Christine
Subject: Re: NO on Lil Woodrow's permit

UPDATE ON YESTERDAY'S LETTER OPPOSING LIL WOODROW'S ON BURNET:

Dear City Council Members:

Since writing yesterday's letter regarding Lil Woodrow's on Burnet, I have since learned about a proposed "compromise" that would actually reduce parking on Lil Woodrow's property. This proposal is even worse than the previous one, because it will push cars and patrons back in to our neighborhood. There is nowhere else to park on Burnet, so patrons will park on Clay, Adams, and Houston Street. This will also cause more patrons, many of whom will have been drinking, to drive through our residential neighborhood.

Please, I urge you to vote NO on Lil Woodrow's permit.

Julie Kniseley
1601 Houston Street, #11
Austin, TX 78756

On Mon, Jan 27, 2014 at 12:57 PM, J Kniseley [REDACTED] wrote:
Dear City Council Members:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the conditional use permit and waiver for Lil Woodrow's on Burnet and Houston Street (item #29703, recently postponed until the 1/30 meeting).

I live two blocks from this location on Houston Street with my husband and 13-year-old daughter. We frequently walk in this neighborhood. My daughter walks home from Lamar Middle School. We enjoy walking to restaurants and shops. The addition of yet another bar on our street - this one with live music - will be an unwanted, unsafe, loud, and disruptive addition to the neighborhood.

Brentwood is already growing exponentially, negatively affecting the safety and tranquility of this residential neighborhood. Traffic on Burnet Road is already a problem. It's almost impossible to turn left from Burnet onto our street (Houston), and even more impossible and unsafe to cross Burnet on foot. The addition of a live music venue on our street, only a few yards from many family homes, will bring more noise, drunks, and drunks driving cars to our doorsteps - a huge step backward for our neighborhood.

I strongly urge you to reject this proposal and keep our neighborhood safe and family friendly.

Yours truly,

Julie Kniseley

Barton-Holmes, Christine

From: J Kniseley [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 12:57 PM
To: Leffingwell, Lee; Cole, Sheryl; Martinez, Mike [Council Member]; Tovo, Kathie; Riley, Chris; Spelman, William; Morrison, Laura
Cc: Barton-Holmes, Christine
Subject: NO on Lil Woodrow's permit

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I strongly urge you to reject this proposal and keep our neighborhood safe and family friendly.
[REDACTED]

Yours truly,

Julie Kniseley
1601 Houston Street, #11
Austin, TX 78756