

Hello Sauk Creek Neighbors,

On July 21st, the Alcohol License and Review Committee voted 4 – 3 to allow Walgreen's on Mineral Point and Old Sauk Road liquor licenses. At first blush, this may not seem to be a big deal. But I've done some research and am concerned that we will suffer more crime and alcohol-related problems if these licenses are approved by the City Council on August 3rd. There is a nifty form on the City of Madison website that allows you to contact all alders with one click: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/Council/contact.cfm> if you want to weigh in.

There is extensive research showing that for every additional alcohol outlet, crime increases. For our aldermanic district 9, that statistics bear this out. The number of liquor licenses has doubled in the last 10 years – we have 47 in the aldermanic district 9 and 13 within 1 square mile of the Walgreen's on Mineral Point road. The police calls have also doubled. Clearly, police calls increase for a number of reasons, but alcohol is a factor in most crimes in our city. And we have no shortage of places to buy alcohol in our neighborhood.

Wisconsin has 9 times the national average of alcohol outlets per person. Our rate is 172 people per outlet while the national average is 1400. It is no wonder we are number one in drunk driving, binge drinking, and pregnant women drinking in the country. What do we do about it? We start taking steps to curb the amount of outlets that are in our neighborhood. That should start today.

The other main reason to be concerned is that Walgreen's is primarily a drug store with over 50% of its business being prescription and non-prescription drugs. Many of those important medicines are contraindicated with alcohol use. There is no need for a pharmacy to sell alcohol. We can urge our elected officials to set reasonable guidelines as to what type of locations alcohol can be sold at. Let's draw the line at pharmacies.

(research can be found at: <http://www.countyofdane.com/commissions/alcohol/resources.aspx> and Gruenewald, P. & Remer, L. "Changes in Outlet Densities Affect Violence Rates." Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, July 2006.

If you are concerned, I urge you to call or e-mail our Alderman Paul Skidmore and let him know how you feel:

Paul Skidmore
13 Red Maple Trl
Madison, WI 53717
Phone: 608-829-3425
district9@cityofmadison.com

I would also encourage you to either send an e-mail to the entire council and Mayor or attend the Tuesday, August 3 Council meeting. It begins at 6:30 pm. You can go and register your opinion or register to speak on the issue if you wish. And here's the form on the City of

Madison website that allows you to contact all alders with one click: [http://
www.cityofmadison.com/Council/contact.cfm](http://www.cityofmadison.com/Council/contact.cfm)

I appreciate the opportunity to get this information out to all of you. If you have questions, I'd be happy to attempt to answer them.

Sincerely,

Maureen Busalacchi
7710 Gray Fox Trail
Madison, WI 53717