

From: [MARY FETTES](#)
To: [PlanComm](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comments in Response to Docket Item #6
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 11:26:10 AM

Good Morning,

I am commenting on the City's consideration in response to Hops 'N Shine's SUP2024-00026 request to further expand its scope and operations at its 3410 Mount Vernon Avenue location.

After years of non-compliance (at times, to the point of being belligerent), I realize Hops 'N Shine has been better in their compliance with the rules of their current SUP. However they have not been "perfect". There have been noise complaints – especially the event in March. Time and time again, they skirt around the rules. This time they openly complained about the rules imposed upon them (and the unfair treatment by their neighbors) June 2nd on the 10 pm news on WTTG – Fox 5. Yes, they touted their "good behavior" as being a catalyst for expanding operations.

I am a close proximity neighbor to Hops 'N Shine. As much as they try to gloss over the fact, Hops 'N Shine's outdoor space is not conducive to being a "Secret Garden" – the original premise for the expansion back in 2017. It backs up directly to the homes on Sanborn Place – **15 FEET** from the homes. Although the business professed to add noise mitigation efforts years ago, they have done nothing. It is still just a paved area where dumpsters used to live, and all the noise still echoes.

Again, the business is seeking to add to activities taking place in this back alley – outdoor cooking, games, trivia, movies, and amplified live entertainment – with zero requirement to provide noise mitigation measures. This is not a public park with a lovely greenspace that lends itself to lingering in the great outdoors. Instead patrons are looking directly at the living rooms and bedrooms of the townhouses on Sanborn. Also, why would a restaurant request a SUP to allow these types of activities? Yes, pub trivia is a thing (indoors ... in a pub where players confer quietly), however movie nights are not. Outdoor cooking classes are not (and how can one have a class without amplification?). Giant Jenga and cornhole are for picnics and parties – not at a patio for a restaurant. The last thing I would want to encounter if I were to be eating outside is a game of cornhole making it impossible to have a conversation without shouting and dodging flying beanbags.

SUPs should provide for items that make sense for a business while taking into account the quality of life of the City residents in close proximity. The items listed for Hops 'N Shine appear to be attempts at making a less than desirable space into something "quirky" in an effort to generate patronage. They just do not make sense for this restaurant in its current location.

I have no vendetta against Hops 'N Shine – and I have patronized the business most recently in December when they were operating in compliance with their SUP. However, I will not patronize any business that does not follow the rules. Also, I fail to understand why the City would endorse this sort of behavior. Rules are rules – bad behavior should not be rewarded. I understand this business pays taxes, but, as a homeowner in the City of Alexandria since 1995, I do too.

This new SUP request should not be approved for Hops 'N Shine.

v/r

Mary L. Fettes
3304 Mt. Vernon Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22305

**DISCLAIMER: This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system.
DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted
source.**