

From: hautsl@yahoo.com [<mailto:hautsl@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 1:28 PM

To: Kendra Jacobs; Damaso Rodriguez; Cicely Woodrow; Kristen Walentisch

Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #73496: Planning Commission Inquiries, Dockets Hello, I am writing regarding SUP 201

Dear **Call.Click.Connect.** User

A request was just created using **Call.Click.Connect.** The request ID is 73496.

Request Details:

- Name: Sarah Haut
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: hautsl@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Planning Commission Inquiries, Dockets
- Request Description: Hello,

I am writing regarding SUP 2015-0028 and encroachment request 2015-0003 for 2313 Mt. Vernon avenue.

I don't have concerns regarding the live music requested provided that it is not audible beyond the property line. Several other establishments in Del Ray provide the same with little to no impact to the residents as long as it is not loud music.

My biggest concern is the encroachment request. As a runner, walker, resident, and patron of businesses in Del Ray, I would like to see sidewalks wide enough to accommodate the strollers and pedestrians. Eliminating a foot of sidewalk contradicts the complete streets effort which is supposed to encourage pedestrians.

There is also a parking reduction requested as part of this application. The assumption is that there will be minimal impact on parking because so many people will walk to the restaurant. I would like to see more amenities for the pedestrians, such as a wider sidewalk, to encourage them to walk.

The applicant has not proven that he physically cannot accommodate outdoor seats without an encroachment. Pork Barrell BBQ has big bulky picnic tables and large planters. If the tables were less bulky and the planters were not so substantial, would they still need the encroachment? For the other restaurants, smaller tables and more narrow screening devices could be used within the confines of the property. The current barriers lining the Holy Cow outdoor seating is not permanently affixed to the ground and has a tendency to migrate even further into the public Right of Way. I recommend that it be permanently attached to the property (within the property line) to prevent this from happening. How is this encroachment benefitting the public other than providing a barrier for pedestrians to avoid?

The staff report indicates it is reasonable to believe that a portion of restaurant customers would walk or bike to the site. Can the applicant provide bicycle parking to encourage people to bike?

Please do not permit the encroachment onto the sidewalk.

Thank you,

Sarah Haut

- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, June 2

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at [the Call.Click.Connect. staff interface](#).

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a **Call.Click.Connect.** request. Please do not reply to this email.

DEL RAY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

WWW.delraycitizens.org

P.O. Box 2233, Alexandria, VA 22301

May 31, 2015

Planning Commission Members and Karl W. Moritz, Director
Department of Planning and Zoning
City of Alexandria
City Hall, Room 2100
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Special Use Permit (SUP) # 2015-0028 and Encroachment Application # 2015-0003

Hog Thaid dba Pork Barrel, Sushi Bar, and Holy Cow

On May 12, 2015, the Del Ray Citizens' Association (DRCA) Land Use Committee (LUC) reviewed SUP Number 2015-0028, which purposes to enhance the restaurant's operations by adding additional outdoor dining, allowing for live music, and reducing the additional parking requirements imposed for the additional outdoor dining. The LUC also reviewed Encroachment Application Number 2015-0003 for the same establishment that would allow both the outdoor dining area in front of Pork Barrel to continue to encroach upon the public sidewalk by one foot, and allow the same encroachment in front of Holy Cow and the Sushi Bar. The application was discussed during an open public meeting that included the business owner/applicant, neighbors and adjacent businesses. There was some confusion between neighbors and the applicant on the details of the application, and the applicant was not able to adequately address the questions at the time of the meeting. Neighbors also complained that they had not received sufficient notice of the requested changes, and there was even confusion on which street the outdoor dining was going to be placed on. The neighbors that attended the LUC meeting or who wrote letters had mixed opinions on the application. Some were opposed to any changes to the current SUP, and felt that these issues had already been discussed five years ago and that they should not be changed. Others seemed to like the ideas of music and outdoor dining proposed by the applicant, but didn't understand specifically what would be allowed. Because the LUC was formed to represent the citizens within the neighborhood, the LUC voted to defer the decision on these two applications until the business owner could meet with neighbors and adjacent business owners and provide additional clarification and open lines of communication. The LUC shared this decision with the DRCA membership, but a formal vote was not taken at the membership meeting. When the LUC spoke with Staff about deferring the decision for one month, Staff was opposed to the idea because they felt that the application would not be able to be heard until September and that it would be unfair to the applicant. The LUC and DRCA respect and appreciate the applicant's involvement in the community, and therefore agreed that if an additional meeting with the neighbors was scheduled before the June Planning Commission meeting, that the LUC would re-vote on the items.

This follow up meeting was held on May 27, 2015, and afterward the LUC voted as follows (please note that due to the date of the second meeting, the DRCA membership did not have the opportunity to vote on this item, and the following recommendations are only from the 11 member LUC and the DRCA Executive Board):

SUP# 2015-0028

1. To support the SUP request for live music on the condition that the applicant follows the City's sound ordinances and codes and that no sound carries beyond the property line.
2. To support the SUP request for additional outdoor seating on the conditions that;
 - a.) Two additional parking spaces for the restaurants use are leased off site, or, that the applicant provides parking facilities for four bicycles in the area behind the restaurant, not on public property,
 - b.) and that the large barbecue not be allowed to permanently occupy one of the existing required onsite parking spaces.

Encroachment # 2015-0003

The LUC does not support the application for encroachment of the outdoor dining area into the public sidewalk ROW.

It is our goal to maintain the pedestrian space along Mount Vernon Ave, and while we think outdoor dining will greatly enhance the experience along the Avenue, we need to make sure that adequate space is maintained for people who choose to walk along the public sidewalks in front of the Restaurant. The amount of space legally provided in front of the restaurant is suitable for outdoor dining, and we feel that even allowing a small encroachment is a bad precedent to set.

Sincerely,

Lisa Quandt, Chair
Del Ray Citizens Association
Land Use Committee

Jason Nestlerode, President
Del Ray Citizens Association

Cc: Nathan Randall, Staff Reviewer
Bill Blackburn, Applicant

P&Z received: 6/1/15

To: City of Alexandria Planning Commission

CC: Mike Anderson, Owner, Hog Thaid LLC
Bill Blackwell, Owner, Hog Thaid LLC

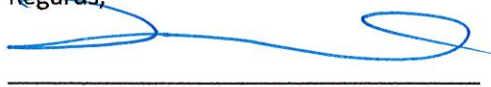
Re: Special Use Permit #2015-0028 – Pork Barrel BBQ, Holy Cow and The Sushi Bar

As residents and direct neighbors of the above mentioned restaurant we were disappointed to learn of the applicants request to change their SUP to allow for live entertainment, a parking reduction and expanded seating including an encroachment into city owned property especially without reaching out to the impacted neighbors. As you may recall the initial SUP application in 2010 had very polarizing views. Ultimately, by working together in an open dialogue and with compromises by both parties the immediate neighbors and the owners of the property were able to reach an agreement on business policies and procedures that, while not optimal for either, was acceptable. A key tenet of that compromise was based on noise levels and traffic within the community. These issues remain and are at further risk of being exacerbated with this request to change their permit.

We do live in a populated urban area and understand that there must be a symbiotic relationship between businesses and residents. Unfortunately, this request from the business owner was not presented to the neighbors on Oxford Avenue and no attempt was made –prior to the LUC suggestion– by the business owner to reach out and explain the request or the need to change the permit. While the business has in the last few days made an attempt to make itself available there are still many concerns the plan as presented. As it stands now their outline provides ambiguous details with regards to the live entertainment and creates a format for added traffic and noise, with increasingly negative impact to the residents in the area. The block between Oxford and Del Ray is arguably the most congested block in Del Ray. Efforts must be made to address and contain noise, traffic, and congestion.

We respectfully request that the Planning Commission defer the hearing and its vote on this matter, to allow time for the business owners to present a comprehensive plan for music, noise and traffic. There are many concerns regarding what the business is trying to achieve and what the consequences may be. That said, it is our hope that the Planning Commission will grant this request for deferral to provide the time and forum for a compromise, such as what we were able to do in 2010.

Regards,



Paul and Ashley Klick
109 E Oxford Ave



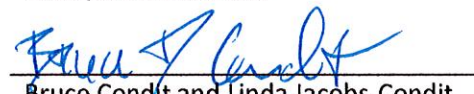
Abby Cobey
108 E Oxford Ave



Lisa and John McNichols
105 E Oxford Ave



Dave and Carolyn Tate
108 1/2 E Oxford Ave



Bruce Condit and Linda Jacobs-Condit
106 E Oxford Ave



May Lou Collins
104 E Oxford Ave

From: Terry Rowe <tarrowe@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 12:44 PM
To: PlanComm
Subject: Docket Item #2015-0028

Please hear and support the request for outdoor seating and music by Pork Barrel BBQ, et. al. I'm a long-time resident of Del Ray and these are good and responsible businesses.

Docket Item #2015-0028

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Terry Rowe

<http://terry-rowe.artistwebsites.com/>

From: Reuter, Gayle <Greuter@mwe.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 12:49 PM
To: PlanComm
Subject: Tonight's Docket # 2015-0028

Dear Chairman & Members of the Planning Commission,

I plan to come down to speak tonight but just in case, I wanted to officially send my strong support of Docket #2015-0028.

My name is Gayle Reuter and I own my home at 110 E. Del Ray Avenue – I have lived in Del Ray since 1983 and my property is directly next to Pork Barrel's Parking lot.

I support completely Pork Barrel, etc. request for the additional outdoor seating and their request for non-amplified music. These are requests that neighbors such as myself requested. We would like to be able to sit outside at the Sushi Bar and there are times during the year that Del Ray Business Association does events in Del Ray, such as First Thursday and would like Pork Barrel to be able to participate. For example in August we are having Dance & Music on the Avenue & would like to have a Barbershop Quartet singing in their restaurant. I'm totally at a loss on how any of this can be harmful to the neighborhood or be anything different then what the majority of all the other restaurants have?

As a direct neighbor I can say without hesitation that I have never had any problems, heard any noise or been inconvenienced at all. All three restaurants have been a wonderful addition to Del Ray and are one of the most community oriented and generous businesses in Alexandria. I ask that you please do not defer but vote tonight in support of their request.

With regards,
Gayle Reuter
110 E. Del Ray Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-216-8597

Gayle Reuter
Legislative Assistant for
Congressman Jim Moran
1991-2015

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Will & Emery**

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Please visit <http://www.mwe.com/> for more information about our Firm.

From: Larry Altenburg <laltenburg@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 1:54 PM
To: PlanComm
Subject: Docket item 2015-0028

I fully support the application made by Bill Blackburn regarding Planning Commission Docket Item #2015-0028. The impact of allowing patio seating in front of the Sushi Bar is negligible. It would add to the character of the neighborhood, and would be consistent with other restaurants on the Avenue.

Further, the request for indoor acoustic live music also is consistent with other restaurants on the Avenue, to include St. Elmos and Caboose Cafe. To deny or defer the applicant's request would not serve in the public interest and would not enhance the character of Del Ray.

--

Larry Altenburg
about.me/laltenburg

From: Elizabeth Schilling <egschilling@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 1:55 PM
To: PlanComm
Subject: Sushi restaurant seating - docket item 2015-0028

Dear Commission Members -

I am writing in support of the applicant's requests for outdoor seating and non-amplified music.

I am a resident of the Del Ray neighborhood and I walk past the applicant's restaurants every day with my children. The storefront in question is quite small relative to the other outdoor seating that is already present, and will not significantly affect the pedestrian environment. We love the vitality of that block and would welcome a few more places to sit outside.

The applicants have been good neighbors and supporters of the business district, and I trust them to manage these additions respectfully.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elizabeth Schilling
9 W Windsor Ave

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jill Erber <jill@cheesetique.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 2:04 PM
To: PlanComm
Subject: Support of Docket item #2015-0028

Good afternoon.

I write to offer my enthusiastic support of Pork Barrel/The Sushi Bar's requests for both live music and outdoor seating. Anything that will add to the vibrancy of our community is most welcome! Pork Barrel and The Sushi Bar are responsible neighbors and community members, as they have proven time and again. Their requests are reasonable and in-line with other businesses on the Avenue, so I hope they are approved quickly and easily.

Thank you for your time,

Jill Erber

Proprietor/Cheese Lady

Cheesetique Specialty Cheese Shop / Cheese & Wine Bar

Established 2004 - That's over 10 years of cheese!

jill@cheesetique.com

[@cheese_lady](#) on Twitter

www.cheesetique.com

From: pmiller1806@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 3:11 PM
To: PlanComm
Subject: Support SUP 2015-0028

Dear Planning Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Del Ray Business Association in support of SUP# 2015-0028. What Hog Thaid is asking for is very simple: Unamplified music (like most restaurants in Alexandria already have), twelve more seats (4 in front of Holy Cow and 8 in front of the Sushi Bar), and waving the three additional parking places for the new seating.

Hog Thaid was treated differently than most other restaurants when they applied five years ago -- their SUP says they have to go through the entire (and costly) SUP process each time they want a change. Most restaurants can do this through Administrative Approval (outdoor seating, unamplified music, etc.).

Hog Thaid is a good neighbor run by exceptional people. They are a leader with other restaurants in Alexandria and have a philosophy of giving back. They do this in many ways -- \$.25 per burger goes to our nonprofits (those quarters add up), they are always first through the door when anyone requests help with a fundraiser and throughout the year, support what is happening in the neighborhood.

We wholeheartedly support Hog Thaid's requests and encourage the Planning Commission to send this request onto City Council tonight, so neighbors can enjoy Sushi Bar seated outside.

Thank you for your consideration.
Pat Miller
Board Member
Del Ray Business Association

From: Leslie Staples <Lesliestaples1@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 3:55 PM
To: PlanComm
Cc: Keith Staples
Subject: Docket Item #2015-0028

Dear Members of the City of Alexandria Planning Commission,

My name is Leslie Staples, and I live at 110 East Oxford Avenue. I am writing to express my full support, and that of my husband, Keith Staples, for Docket Item #2015-0028.

We live directly across the street from the parking lot behind Pork Barrel BBQ (our front porch faces the parking lot), and believe that it is crucial that Members of the Planning Commission are aware that there is support for this request from neighbors in close proximity to Pork Barrel, the Sushi Bar, and Holy Cow. It is my understanding that several of my close neighbors are against this request, and are pushing for a deferral. We respectfully disagree with them.

In our opinion, the owners of these restaurants, Mike Anderson and Bill Blackburn, have been good neighbors, have generously supported the community, and have helped to make Del Ray the thriving community that it is. We have had no concerns about parking, outdoor seating, or noise, and would welcome the addition of live acoustic music and additional outdoor seating.

Because we bought a house right next to the "Avenue," we fully expected that we would be exposed to more people, traffic, and noise than those not so close. We made that choice when we bought our house in 1992. Since that time, we have watched the transformation of Del Ray, and have watched our property value climb in a big way, and our quality of life in the neighborhood increase greatly. If businesses on the avenue do not thrive, it hurts us all. We believe that, for the most part, a good balance has been found between the needs of homeowners, and those of businesses in the neighborhood.

We appreciate your consideration of our views, and we are sorry we could not be there in person.

Respectfully,

Leslie and Keith Staples

Sent from my iPad