



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
P.O.Box 31462, Omaha, NE 68131

September 5, 2007

Councilman Jim Vokal
Councilman Jim Suttle
Councilman Frank Brown
Councilman Garry Gerandt
Councilman Dan Welch
Councilman Franklin Thompson
Councilman Chuck Sigerson, Jr.

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association would like to go on record as opposing the expanded liquor license for K-N-J Grocery at 33rd and California.

As can be revealed by records of police calls in this area, many types of illegal and anti-social behaviors occur on a frequent and ongoing basis in this area, including, but not limited to, public drunkenness, drinking in public (both at the 33rd and California intersection as well as in Gifford Park), drug dealing, indecent exposure, public urination, fights, assaults, shootings, prostitution, sexual assaults, littering, property destruction and obstruction of traffic.

We have been working with the Omaha Police Department for many years to reduce such incidents, with marginal success. Almost certainly, alcohol is a factor in many of these types of problems. We also have numerous families living in the area that would be considered in the lower socioeconomic category, in which alcohol abuse or dependency is a frequent problem and contributor to other problems.

There appears to be no good reason to expand the availability of alcohol in the area. Alcohol can be purchased at the K-N-J, at the California Bar about one hundred feet to the south of K-N-J, at the Kum & Go a few hundred feet farther south and across the street (incidentally, within the area of a church normally proscribed for alcohol sales) and at the Walgreen's at 30th and Dodge. In addition, there have been many complaints from the neighborhood about the management of the K-N-J store, including weeds, litter and health issues.

While we sympathize with the plight of the store owner attempting to achieve economic success by expanding his business to package sales, we do not feel such success should come at the cost of further deterioration in the neighborhood. In the past, we have attempted to attract development in the area, but the problems mentioned above have discouraged potential businesses. We have hopes that the Midtown Crossing may stimulate economic development in the area of 33rd and California. Increased problems related to alcohol abuse are unlikely to encourage such development.

We respectfully request that the proposal to extend the liquor license be denied.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Stuart Shell
Vice President, Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

CC:

Mayor Mike Fahey

Police Chief Thomas Warren

Northeast Police Precinct Captain Dave Baker

Jim Farho, Midtown Neighborhood Alliance

Jim Champion, Midtown Business Association and Destination Midtown

Jamie Grayson, Destination Midtown

Steve Virgil, Creighton University Law