03/10/14

To: Whom it may concern
Re: Humboldt Park Beer Garden Proposal

I'm writing to express my concerns regarding the Humboldt Park Beer Garden proposal. As an immediate neighbor to the park and a home owner, I am opposed to the idea. Below, I've outlined my concerns and objections to this project.

- I reside on the corner of Pine and Dakota. This area will be heavily impacted by the proposed Beer Garden in terms or noise, crowds, and parking. Simply stated, Humboldt Park does not have adequate parking to sustain a daily venue like the one being proposed. My street will likely become the "overflow" lot for those visiting, just as it already is for other events. Given that I already have parking restrictions due to the school, as well as limited parking ability on certain days due to events, adding a beer garden would only increase these issues.
- Every week during the summer, Chill on the Hill takes place. I thoroughly enjoy and support this festival. That being said, I am unable to park near my house on those nights. While this is something I accept as part of owning my home in the location I have chosen, I cannot support the addition of a daily Beer Garden which may not only interfere with Chill on this Hill, an event that is proven successful, but will cause excessive crowds on the nights where the dueling events are taking place.
- As neighbors of Humboldt Park, we already have multiple events: Chill on the Hill weekly, Global Union, the 4th of July, the bike races, movies in the park, Pavilion rentals, daily BBQs, ice skating and ice fishing, the Pumpkin Pavilion…just to name a few. The park is also home to two tot lots, a pool, and there is also a proposal for a skate park. We simply do not need anything else in that park. I understand the beer garden may be a revenue generator for the county (not the park, as the county is getting the $65,000 if this deal goes through), but I simply do not think it is necessary or a good idea.
- The proposed location of this beer garden is very concerning, given its proximity to the tot lot. I think that the notion of selling beer right next to a spot where tons of parents bring their kids to play is simply absurd. We have many people that drive from other areas of the city to use our playground and the idea of encouraging them to purchase alcohol so close to where their kids are playing is irresponsible, at best. It could also cause more unsafe drivers in the area than we already see, especially down our part of Pine Ave.
- The park is surrounded by many schools. The kids use the park for educational purposes all year long and many kids walk home through the park from school. I simply do not like the idea of them walking past an outdoor bar every day.
- The hours, though modified, are still excessive. Seven days week, and on some days for 10 hours a day? This shows no consideration to the surrounding residents.
- When comparing the Estabrook location to the one proposed, the Humboldt Park location makes no sense. It is residentially dense, an extremely busy park, and in

the heart of the city. The impact on the surrounding neighbors will be large, unlike Estabrook which has no residential neighbors. Estabrook also sees large crowds and though their garden is a success, a park in the middle of a residential neighborhood will not sustain these crowds the same way.

- We were originally told to expect 75-100 guests per day. However, the capacity is 200, with the only proposed way to measure the attendance being the number of glasses handed out. Since people can bring their own glass or may not be drinking, there really is now way to maintain the capacity. In addition, 200 is far too much, given the location. Does anyone really think it's reasonable to have an additional 200 people in the park on any given Saturday or Sunday?

I also have concerns regarding communication of the proposal. Much of the communication from our County Supervisor has been via Facebook, specifically online neighborhood groups. Not everyone has Facebook, much less subscribes to these groups. Jason Haas, you indicated to me that you'd go door to door to discuss this with the surrounding neighbors. However, last we spoke, you had not been able to do this due to the cold weather. Have you done this yet? Or must neighbors contact you with concerns, if they are even aware of the proposal? In addition, I asked you in mid-February if we could work together to arrange a meeting for the surrounding neighbors to have a voice in this matter. I knew you were working with many concerned residents and asked if you'd like to help me connect with these residents in an effort to work with them regarding our concerns. You indicated that you would like to help organize this meeting, that you would consider holding it during a park watch meeting or at another time, and would be happy to involve other concerned residents. You also stated you would go door to door to see who else might be interested. When I tired to get specifics from you a few weeks later, you seemed to have no idea what meeting I was talking about (even after several reminders) and didn't have any interest in assisting with organization of the meeting, leaving me back at square one with less time to organize. Frankly, it seemed that once the change in hours was made, it was expected that the problems were all solved. This only addresses one of the many concerns residents near the park have about this proposal.

Bottom line – the park is used for enough already. Adding this beer garden seems excessive and inconsiderate to the neighbors who already are quite tolerant of the many events which already take place .

With $65,000 going to the general county fund, I am concerned that the voices of the immediate neighbors will be ignored. I sincerely hope that you will consider how this will impact us and all that use the park.

Thank you.

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