

October 11, 2000

Washington State Liquor Control Board
Seattle Enforcement
2101 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121-2512

RE: Oscars Restaurant and Bar

Oscars liquor license is up for renewal next month and I strongly suggest you deny this application. I live less than two blocks from Oscars and have daily visibility to the activities that surround this establishment. I take the bus to work and back every day, forced to use the bus stops directly across the street from his business. I am often taunted with racial slurs, asked if I would like to prostitute and approached by aggressive drug dealers. Long after I come home, inebriated patrons of both Oscars and Deano's stumble along my street making noise, littering and often destroying our property. Seattle Police Department can confirm over thirty calls from my residence this year, specifically to address public drunkenness and drug related activities.

As you know, Oscars was granted a previous license only after agreeing to twelve rules imposed jointly by the community and WA State Liquor Control Board. Quite simply, this has not worked and there is still rampant drug dealing, prostitution and criminal activity in my neighborhood. This is highlighted by the increased violence and harassment by patrons of both Oscars and Deano's on October 6th, as noted in my letter to SPD Chief Kerlikowske.

I do not want to single out Oscars as the only blight on a corner with a poor history. I have seen the clerks at Deano's Grocery sell beer to young women without checking ID. I have seen several fights outside Deano's Restaurant and Bar. I have seen blatant drug deals on all four corners of this intersection. Given this history, I can not single out Oscars as a sole culprit to any of these illegal activities. However, I can ask that you take a good look at this neighborhood and understand that the business that occurs in and around Oscars is illegal and dangerous.

Fifteen years ago, this corner was full of boarded up buildings. Now it is a center of business development and economic feasibility. There are several new high density buildings and several more buildings in the permit process. This neighborhood has experienced a three-fold increase in property values. Unfortunately, this one corner continues to lag behind the neighborhood and is an urban blight. The drug dealing, drug using and public drunkenness has no place in this neighborhood. The police, the community and the Liquor Control Board have looked the other way for long enough. It's time to start making a positive change on this block and it starts with denying Oscars liquor license.

Sincerely,

Kristine Hansen
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cc: Chief Kerlikowske
Captain Metz
Officer Bogucki