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JUL 28 2009

July 22, 2009

Joan McGilton  
400 SW 152<sup>nd</sup> St  
Burien WA 98166

CITY OF BUR.

CC: Sue Blazak, Rose Clark,  
Kathy Keene, Lucy Krakowiak,  
Sally Nelson, Gordon Shaw,  
Mike Martin, Scott Kimerer

I write this letter knowing full well the business in question represents the livelihood of someone and their family. But I can no longer remain quiet. I would like to take a moment and express my frustration with the city of Burien for their complete lack of oversight of the Wah Long Sports Bar located at the corner of 153<sup>rd</sup> and Ambaum. This bar is a public nuisance and is wasting the precious resources of the city. I say this as someone who has lived in the community my entire life, went to high school in Burien, and now owns a business in Burien across from the bar. I have a front row seat to daily occurrences of illegal activity.

Here are just some of the recent examples that I have encountered.

- 1) Several months ago a glass beer bottle was thrown at the door of our building and shattered on the sidewalk in front of the door. It was thrown by a car speeding out of the Wah Long parking lot.
- 2) Four weeks ago in the middle of an appt. with clients, a drunken man exited Wah Long and proceeded to walk across the street and knock on my window. He rambled on about something, yelling at the top of his lungs that he needed to get into my office. I knew he was intoxicated because I could smell the alcohol through the locked door! This all happened in front of my clients. I told him to leave or I would call the police. He left.
- 3) Three weeks ago, a girl walked up and down the sidewalks of 153<sup>rd</sup> talking about how she was the devil and asking people if they believed in God. And guess where she walked in to? Wah Long. The police were called by someone else and they were looking for her up and down 153<sup>rd</sup>. I tried to wave them down twice to let them know that she had gone into the bar but they didn't understand or didn't care.
- 4) About a year ago, the secretary in the attorney's office across the hall had an intoxicated man walk across the street and make inappropriate and sexually suggestive remarks to her. She was so afraid she asked me to wait with her in case he came back. I told her to call the police and she did. The man came from and went back into Wah Long Sports Bar.

CFTR: 9-14-09

PC: 7-28-09

cc: Chief Kimerer for response.

- 5) One of the homeless men that frequent the streets of Burien, the one with curly hair about 35 that often has violent conversations with himself (ask any Burien police officer and they will know who), usually goes into Wah Long and has a few drinks. When he leaves the conversations are often louder and more violent. I have seen the police called on him 3 times in the last 3 months. I personally called 911 on him myself. I was worried he was going to get hit by a car in the street.
- 6) And today I watched two cars pull up in the parking lot. One with three individuals and the other car with two. A man got out of the one car and got into the back seat of the other, handed the driver something, and ten seconds later was out of the car. The cars then left in separate directions. It doesn't take an intuitive person to figure out that that was a drug deal.

There have been fights. There is noise coming from what I have heard is an illegal outdoor bar that the city turns a blind eye to. There are often what look to be drug transactions taking place. There are beer bottles and trash every night from Wah Long. After Friday and Saturday it is far worse. In fact, ask the people who pick up garbage on the streets of Burien where they often have to spend the most time. The answer is Wah Long. Often times there are open, half drunken beer bottles left on benches and in the parking lot or on the sidewalk. They are there for any old person including a child to find.

This says nothing of the fact that alcohol is clearly being removed from the premises. There is clearly no control on the amount of consumption at the bar. People "burn out" of the parking lot. They speed on 153<sup>rd</sup>. And the worst part is you know many of them are beyond the legal limit. I even had a Burien police officer joke with me once that if they sat there at midnight to 2 am on a Saturday they would probably get 5 DUI's no problem. My thought was why aren't you? Is this really what Burien stands for? And if so, why am I involved in this community? The city can enforce laws on signage of businesses but not drunk driving? Isn't that a little backwards?

I have more examples if you need them. But my question to the elected officials of Burien is what more do you need? How many hours of wasted, valuable police time have been caused by this bar? Is it going to take a drunk driver from Wah Long killing someone before you do something about this? Because I can tell it isn't a question of if, it is a question of when.

This is a major corner of our city. You have to go by it to get to the Town Square. You can build as many new shiny buildings as you want in Burien but the fact is as long as this type of stuff is going on in the community and places like Wah Long exist it is not going to get any better. And Burien's reputation will remain where it is today.

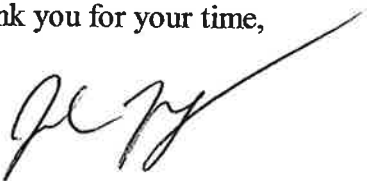
The Burien Town square was supposed to be about a new beginning for Burien. I can tell you that if a business like Wah Long Sports Bar has a place in the revitalized Burien and is a valued pillar of our community I want nothing to do with that community anymore. And my business will be yet another office that sits vacant on 153<sup>rd</sup>. But hey at

least the city gets to collect the sales tax revenue from Wah Long. That should probably allow it to recoup about 70% of the money the city spends on the officers responding to incidents at Wah Long or incidents that indirectly relate and originate from Wah Long.

If it takes me having every business owner on 153<sup>rd</sup> sign a petition repeating what I have told you, so be it. If it takes me picking up the trash and beer bottles from the Wah Long parking lot and 153<sup>rd</sup> on Sunday evening and delivering it to the Mayor's office on Monday morning, so be it. If it takes me videotaping the drug transactions, drunk drivers, and reckless behavior and bringing it to the next city council meeting to be viewed, so be it. But I would hope a city that is so interested in changing its image would be concerned enough that this is happening in the community that it wouldn't come to that. I hope I am right. I want to stay in Burien and continue to build a rich, diverse, and vibrant community. But to me, I don't want to be here if I have to combat this everyday. There are other places I can go with my business and it is not okay that I have drunk people knocking on my door in the middle of appointments with clients.

I challenge any elected official of Burien to come down to Wah Long on a Friday night at midnight, pull up a chair, and see for yourself what is going on. It will shock you. And the worst part is sometimes it's that bad at 3 pm in the afternoon with children walking home from school to witness all of the things I described for you above. That is not okay.

Thank you for your time,



Jordan Pomeroy

Edward Jones Financial Advisor  
And Exchange Club of Highline member

**Edward Jones**

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August 14, 2009

TO: Jordan Pomeroy

FROM: Chief K. Scott Kimerer, Burien Police Department

RE: **COMPLAINT REGARDING WAH LONG SPORTS BAR**

Dear Mr. Pomeroy,

I appreciate your correspondence regarding issues at the Wah Long Sports Bar. We have begun an investigation of the complaints and will be working with other affected Burien City Departments to address any violations. In reviewing the calls for service over the last two years, the number of calls is not extraordinary, however the types of calls the police have responded to are concerning. We will also be working with the State Liquor Control Board to ensure compliance with their license. Finally, we will be meeting in the future with the owner to let him know of the problem and work with them on developing a good neighbor relationship.

Please continue to call the police when necessary to help us track the number of complaints generated by Wah Long. Generally, these issues are not resolved overnight but be assured we understand and respect the problems you are experiencing and will work toward a resolution. Please call Sergeant Henry McLauchlan at 206-296-3350 if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

K. Scott Kimerer  
Chief of Police, City of Burien

