

RECEIVED

June 6th, 2011

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CITY OF BURIEN

Joan McGilton

400 SW 152nd St.

Burien WA 98166

CC: Gerald Robison, Gordon Shaw, Rose Clark, Brian Bennett, Jack Block, Lucy Krakowiak, Mike Martin, Dick Loman, Jim Bibby, Scott Kimerer, Nancy Hinthorne, Carmen Moore, Sue Rahr, Sharon Foster, John Wilson, Susan Blaker, Dow Constantine, Karen Keiser, Tina Orwall, Dave Upthegrove

Mayor McGilton,

It is with regret that this letter is being sent to you. You, the city council, the chief of police and several city of Burien officials have been warned repeatedly in writing as far back as 2008 that the Wah Long sports bar at the corner of 153rd and Ambaum has a severe crime problem. As you are hopefully aware, two weeks ago a shooting and stabbing occurred at this establishment. This is the second shooting in 5 months at the Wah Long sports bar. These events are not isolated. They are part of a much bigger and more frequent problem.

Beyond the stabbings, shootings and alcohol induced fights there have been repeated problems of Wah Long not cutting off intoxicated patrons, allowing patrons to walk out of the bar with their alcohol, turning a blind eye to drug deals both inside the building and in the parking lot, allowing the building and parking lot to be an unsightly mess with garbage, the serving of minors, the operation of an illegal outdoor bar, excessive noise, having intoxicated patrons harassing other local businesses and staying open past two AM. But you know all of these things. You have been told them before, repeatedly. We have a collection of your responses from the last several years if you would like to see them to refresh your memory.

As concerned citizens, residents, and business owners in Burien who care deeply about our community we are writing this letter to express in the strongest possible terms that the city needs to do something about this problem. **We call on the city of Burien to ask the Washington State Liquor Control Board for a non-renewal of the Wah Long sports bar's liquor license.** This license is up for renewal on 10/31/2011. We further ask the city to remove the Wah Long sports bar's business license.

You have before you a letter signed by every single local business owner whose establishments surround Wah Long as well as the signatures of many others in the immediate area. Not one small business who deals with the consequences of the Wah Long sports bar was unwilling to sign this letter. And the reason is simple. The quality of life of everyone around this bar suffers.

One of the main reasons given why Burien needed to become a city was so that the community would have a local government that was aware and responsive to the needs of Burien. Where is

that leadership? As of now, the city seems either unwilling or unable to confront the reality that this establishment presents a public nuisance. The question that we have is what is it going to take for the officials of the city Burien to do something? How many more fights, stabbings, and shootings need to occur? How many more headlines do you want in the media with the words "shooting" and "Burien?" With every bullet and headline any goodwill that you have created about the reinvention of Burien and its image evaporates.

This letter, ironically, is being written at a time when preliminary discussion is occurring at city hall about how to improve 153rd. We can promise you that simply closing down the Wah Long sports bar will do more to improve 153rd than any sidewalk widening, planter box, or vintage street light ever will. It is inconceivable that the city feels that this business adds anything of value to the community. And as long as a business that is a public nuisance attracting questionable patrons is allowed to operate 3 blocks from city hall at one of the most visible corners in our community the image of Burien will not change.

Waiting, Watching, and Hoping,

Concerned Citizens and Business Owners of Burien



Brian Trautmann

Business Owner 153rd



Anarudh Prasad

Business Owner 153rd



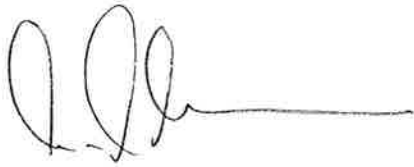
Tony Grasher

Resident 153rd



Nan Maharaj

Business Operator 153rd



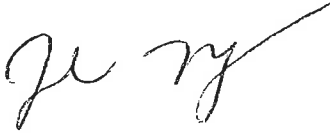
Michael Frans

Business Owner 153rd



Jay Smith

Business Owner 148th



Jordan Pomeroy

Business Owner 153rd



Tim Healy

Resident Burién



John Pryor

Business Owner 153rd



Ed Conroy

Business Owner 153rd



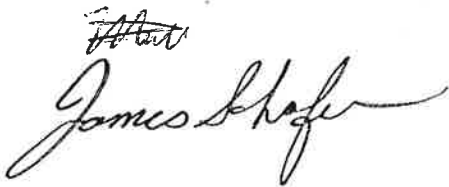
Matt Cassarino

Business Owner 153rd



Gary Nickell

Business Owner 6th Ave



Jim Schafer

Business Owner 3rd Ave



Dick Schroeter

Business Owner Burién



Denny Lockett

Resident Burién



Sherrill Miller

Business Owner 153rd



Jim Hughes

Business Owner 6th Ave



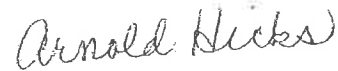
Cyndi Upthegrove

Resident Burien



Steve Perry

Business Owner 153rd



Arnold Hicks

Business Owner Ambaum



Hattie Hicks

Business Owner Ambaum

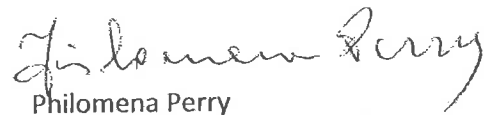
Judy Caughron

Business Owner Ambaum



Clifford Caughron

Business Owner Ambaum



Philomena Perry

Business Owner 152nd



Pat Perry

Business Owner 152nd



Ronnie Santone

Business Owner 152nd



Aaron Collins

Business Owner 152nd



David Hawthorne

Business Owner 6th Ave



Ryan Rumel

Business Owner 153rd



Shauna Rumel

Business Owner 153rd



Jim Brown

Business Owner 153rd



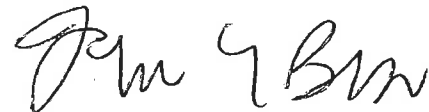
Keith Lionetti

Business Owner 153rd



Adam Clark

Business Owner 153rd



Johnny Bafco

Business Owner 152nd



Terri Benish

Business Owner Ambaum

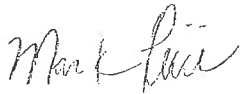


Patti Spaulding

Business Operator 153rd

Mark Ricci

Business Owner 153rd & 152nd

Handwritten signature of Mark Ricci in cursive script.

Robert Wray

Business Owner 153rd

Handwritten signature of Robert Wray in cursive script.