



City Council Member Michael P. Rainville – 3rd Ward

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Dear Neighbors,

I am convening a community meeting on February 21, at 6:00 p.m. at the Depot Hotel to get community feedback on whether the city should issue the Bazemnt Bar a liquor license.

The Bazemnt Bar is trying to obtain a liquor license from the city to operate a late-hour nightclub at 501 Washing Avenue, in the basement of the building where Caribou is located. The Bazemnt would be open Thursday – Sunday, from 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. It will not have a kitchen or restaurant component. It will have music, DJs, and hold 250 people.

Here are some issues that we could review at the meeting.

1. The Bazemnt's original request for a liquor license in 2022 was denied by the city. Specifically, the city's Licensing and Consumer Services Office stated in its September 12, 2022, letter that "it would not be in the public interest to recommend approval of the license application." (See attachments)
2. We do not have any documents identifying the exact ownership of the Bazemnt. We are not sure if it is owned by one or more individuals or some business entity.
3. The Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) is grossly understaffed. Currently, MPD has 508 sworn officers, which is well below its authorized force amount of 780 officers. Also, MPD's downtown patrol for the nightshift only has 10-12 officers. Neighbors have expressed concerns that MPD does not have the manpower to properly respond to problems that may occur at a 250 person late-hour night-club in the Mill District.

I would greatly appreciate hearing your views and opinions on this issue, and I hope you can attend the meeting.

Sincerely,