

John Jay

From: Caitlin Palmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 09, 2022 11:43 AM
To: Kari Svanstrom; John Jay
Subject: Letter re: Item on July 12 Planning Commission Agenda

Please include this letter in the agenda packet for the July 12 Planning Commission meeting.

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I'm writing in regards to item 5B on the July 12 planning commission meeting agenda (Piala's alcohol use permit).

First, **I'd like to thank the commissioners who attended the June 28 meeting for your thoughtful consideration and questions.** You showed integrity and it reaffirms my commitment to doing business in the Sebastopol community (I regularly spend time and money here visiting friends and buying produce and herbs from local growers for my herbalism practice).

I support the commission's initial decision to deny an alcohol use permit to the applicants. I urge you to uphold that decision.

I encourage you to continue to stand firm in your authority and responsibility to the community. At the June 28 commission meeting, I heard a public commenter mischaracterize your consideration of community input as bias. They wrongly ignored the Commission's duties as described in the municipal code "To act in an advisory capacity to the City Council [...] and to serve as a forum for members of the public to voice their comments regarding such matters" (2.24.070(D)). Considering community input is necessary in an accountable public process, not bias.

Approving the permit on the condition that Lowell Sheldon not be allowed on the premises cannot be enforced and will not provide the safeguard that community members are requesting. According to city code, "[T]he applicant for the conditional use permit shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the proposed use will not adversely affect the health, safety or welfare, result in undue concentration of alcoholic beverage outlets, or detrimentally affect nearby communities" (17.350.020 (D)). The applicants have not provided clear and convincing evidence to meet this condition. Lowell Sheldon, on public record, refused to agree to not be a patron or on the premises. He also violated similar conditions in his role at Khom Loi, causing that business to end their relationship with him.

Sebastopol is an incredible community that deserves businesses and workplaces that are safe and welcoming. The people who live, work, and visit here deserve for local leaders such as this commission to make decisions that honor their requests for safety.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Palmer