

1 March 2010

Department of Financial Management
333 W Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach CA 90802

To Whom It May Concern:

This is in response to the late notice given for the (to-be-held-when-working-folk-can't-attend) permit hearing for The Pike Bar (1836 E 4th St.) and it's request for more permissions for their business.

The Pike Bar has been the source of many problems in our neighborhood. Their patrons are noisy enough to wake residents from their sleep as they pour out into the parking lot to continue their revelries. This happens consistently on Friday and Saturday nights (Saturday and Sunday early mornings). There are times, during the week as well, when there seems to be far too many people at the bar and there is a whole crowd in the parking lot. The negative impact on parking can't be overstated.

Bar patrons carousing in the parking lot seem disinclined to go back into the bar (or are too young to be in the bar) and seek other places to relieve themselves. They wander down the alley and defecate and urinate against our cars and our buildings. I have, on several occasions, had to start my day with a bucket of soapy bleach water to disinfect the puddle of urine that was left between me and my car door.

I have also had the opportunity to ask bar patrons to leave the parking area behind our apartment who were engaging in sexual acts. One of them even left a Pike beer glass on the ground behind my car tire. If I hadn't had to load work gear into the passenger side, I probably wouldn't have seen it and could have done serious damage to my car backing up over it.

I believe that The Pike needs to do more to be a good business citizen before being given even more permission to negatively impact the neighborhood. I would recommend that the bar be required to have a parking lot attendant who would be responsible for overseeing patrons going to and from their cars. S/he could also stop a rowdy crowd from gathering in the parking lot and discourage the revving and racing of motorcycles, which seems to be a frequent occurrence.

We have been told by many in the City to call the police when these things happen, but calling the police every week, or more often, gets the complainant labeled as pest and their complaints are not taken seriously. Even when I've called, the response is slow (probably because they have other priorities on a Friday or Saturday night). I'd recommend a separate complaint number that could be monitored by the Financial Management Department or perhaps the City Councilwoman's deputy and the business owners contacted directly to address these problems. Obviously, the current system isn't working.

Sincerely,

Deputy P. Christine Urbach, MPH REHS
1851 E. Florida St., Long Beach CA 90802