



March 24, 2015

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Re: For hearing item 1 regarding conditional use permit to allow the sale of alcohol at 5740 Atlantic Avenue.

I am writing concerning the decision of the City of Long Beach Planning Commission to grant a license to sell alcoholic beverages at 5740 Atlantic Avenue. This decision should be reversed by the city counsel for the safety and welfare of the community of north Long Beach. There are several reasons why we strongly oppose this decision.

There are already far too many outlets that currently sell alcohol in this sector of Long Beach. There are two large stores almost exclusively devoted to liquor sales (self identified by their signage as 'liquor stores') that are less than a half mile away from 5740 Atlantic Avenue. One of them is within several hundred yards! Also, the *Seven Eleven* store at Market and Atlantic (less than half a mile away) sells liquor as does the CVS store a half mile north on Atlantic, it also sells alcohol; that's four busy outlets within one half mile. If you extend the radius out to one mile there are even more entities that sell or serve alcoholic beverages.

As a pastor who has been a part of this community for over twenty years I can certify that a disproportionate number of residents in the 90805 area have alcohol related problems, as our church is located about 150 yards away from 5740 Atlantic Avenue. This is based on the number of people, who, over the years have attended alcohol recovery programs that our church has sponsored. Also, the number of service calls performed by the Long Beach Police Department on just one street, Linden Avenue (very close to 5740), that involve alcohol (fights, domestic violence, gang violence, etc.) would strongly discourage the allowance of yet another nearby location where alcohol can be obtained.

Finally, about six months ago, while gassing up my car at 5740 Atlantic, I watched a man emerge from the store with a six pack of beer, get in his car which was next to mine, open a can of beer, drink from it and then drive off from the station! I suspect that this happens more often than we might know! I am reminded of at least two fatal car accidents, in the last several years, here in this north Long Beach area, where alcohol was involved.

As a pastor and property owner (5700 and 5710 Lime Avenue) in the immediate neighborhood of the subject business, for the safety, health and welfare of our community please reverse the planning commission's decision.

Sincerely,



John Atkinson

Senior Pastor, Calvary Chapel North Long Beach