

**Chavez, Amanda M.**

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**From:** sandrich22@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2016 10:36 PM  
**To:** Chavez, Amanda M.  
**Subject:** Lawless Distillery

I believe that the request by Lawless Distillery should be denied for 28th Avenue location. There will be increased traffic of people and cars in this quiet neighborhood. Parking will become a problem for this neighborhood which is already facing a lack of street parking. The parking lot and the building itself are too close to neighbors' back yards. Many of these neighbors have made significant investments in improving their properties.

The Lawless Distillery Company has a mistaken view of the history of "Hub of Hell". As one who grew up near the Hub of Hell, I have negative images of that location. The Seward Neighborhood was instrumental in cleaning up the area and its reputation; it should hesitate to approve a bar without food for this location.

Long term resident,  
Dick Westby

DBA/Trade Name: Lawless Distilling Company Date of Public Hearing: January 19, 2016

Your Name: Robert DAHL Your Address: 2536 28th AVE So

Comments:

WE DONT NEED ANY MORE  
BARS.

I ALREADY GET TOO  
MANY STRAYS IN MY YARD  
AFTER THE HEXON CLOSES  
AND IT WOULD BE

KITTY CORNER FROM ME

→ THATS TOO CLOSE  
TO RESIDENTS

DONT SPOIL THE  
QUIET WE HAVE

Signature: Bahl Date: 1/10/16

You may return this response to:

Division of Licenses and Consumer Services  
Room 1 City Hall  
350 5<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Minneapolis MN 55415  
[BusinessLicenses@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:BusinessLicenses@minneapolismn.gov)  
FAX 612-673-3399

Inspector: Amanda Chavez-Thao

## Chavez, Amanda M.

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**From:** Marilyn Matheny <marilyn.matheny@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016 3:03 PM  
**To:** Chavez, Amanda M.  
**Subject:** Lawless Distilling License

DBA/Trade Name: Lawless Distilling Company  
Date of Public Hearing: January 19, 2016

Your Name:  
Marilyn Matheny

Your Address:  
2304 30th Avenue South

### Comments:

There has been a recent proliferation of new liquor licenses in the Seward neighborhood: Chef Shack, Café Racer, Mon Petit Bakery, and Seward Creamery. Now there is a request for a hard liquor license from Lawless Distilling.

I am concerned about the Lawless liquor license because it will be for hard liquor and it is not associated with a restaurant. I worry that we have not learned from our neighborhood history and are therefore repeating it. Seward Neighborhood Group (SNG) worked hard to remove the bars that were the source of the crimes that lead to the "Hub of Hell" label for the neighborhood. As a result of SNG's hard work that unsavory reputation is now in the past and is no longer in the memory of most Seward residents. So we need to ask: Do we once again want to become known as a neighborhood of bars?

Lawless (and their name alone is disturbing in this context) presents the neighborhood's crime-filled history as a romantic spin on their location. They seem to suggest that those were the good old days (see the excerpt from their website below). This makes me worry that

a hard liquor license at their location could lead to another lawless "Hub of Hell"

bar  
in a now quiet part of the neighborhood.

The following is an excerpt from the Lawless Distilling website:  
<http://www.lawlessdistillingcompany.com/home>

What exactly is the Hub of Hell? Word has it, it is the real estate that exists at the intersection of 26th Street and 26th Avenue in the Seward Neighborhood, southeast of downtown Minneapolis. It is bordered by Hiawatha Avenue, the Midtown Greenway, and the Mississippi River.

Though the area's history stretches back long before the prohibition of alcohol changed the landscape of drinking in the early 1920's; the neighborhood is primarily remembered for its relationship to ardent spirits, factories, and the Milwaukee Chicago Railroad. Time has taken its toll, and the buildings have since been razed, but Andrew Volstead's Noble Experiment has left behind the ghosts of tippling houses, speakeasies and seedy blind pigs.

Once a burgeoning destination for the pursuit of drinking and fighting, the Hub of Hell, mid-century was the home of saloons, nightclubs, and strip joints where corrupt cops could strike unsavory bargains with the city's underworld. Steelworkers from the Minneapolis Moline factory joined young men and women, coming of age during the era of the Vietnam War, for Friday night recreation.

In the 1960's, gang members known as the Baldies lurked in the shadows. These boys, organized by the legendary Deuce Casper, engaged in fist-fights for the sheer joy of feeling knuckles against teeth. Restless, and needing to blow off a little steam, disorderly young men participated in gangland fights behind places like Duffy's Bar, Pearson's, the Hexagon, Nibs and the Stardust Bowling Alley, much to the delight of onlookers. These unnecessary battles kept the old General Hospital emergency room hopping on weekends. Now in their 70s, the Baldies continue to recount their glory days.

But the times, they are a changing. These days, you are far more apt to raise a glass of Lawless Tippling House Vodka In a toast, than raise a fist in a backstreet brawl.

Again my question is: Do we once again want to become known as a neighborhood of bars?

Marilyn Matheny

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Project Director  
Seward History Book Project  
Minneapolis, MN 55406





## Chavez, Amanda M.

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**From:** Stephen Parsons <parsonssh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2016 5:12 PM  
**To:** Chavez, Amanda M.  
**Subject:** Lawless Distilling Company Date of Public Hearing: January 19, 2016

Dear Ms. Chavez:

I am a resident of the Seward neighborhood and live approximately seven blocks from the proposed cocktail room at Lawless Distilling Company.

I write to support Lawless's application for the Class C-2 license. While I have read several e-mails expressing concern (and I presume opposition) to the license application, and appreciate the writer's concern as someone who would live within two blocks of the cocktail room, I think that the suppositions behind her concerns are unwarranted:

- While I suppose that it is inevitable that a few Lawless customers may leave the cocktail room intoxicated, I think that is likely to be the exception, rather than a common experience. Lawless's products are not priced to attract people who intend to get drunk. They are, rather, upper-end, high quality spirits, and the cocktail's made with them will necessarily command higher prices. Not a recipe for alcohol abusers.
- While I don't know Lawless's proposed hours of operation, my observation from the e-mail exchanges is that this is probably going to be a late afternoon-evening operation, but unlikely to be open into the wee small hours. If it were open from 4 pm until midnight, that would be eight hours. If we were to draw any comparison to the only similar operation in this area, Du Nord's cocktail room at 32nd and Snelling, that means that there would be approximately 1000 visits per month, or an average of under 40 customers per day, spread out over probably five to eight hours, meaning an average of five to eight customers per hour. This, again, does not seem to be a recipe for a rowdy house.

I am unaware of any problems with patron behavior at, around, or as a result of the Du Nord Cocktail room. That, I think, is the appropriate model to observe.

The Karnitz's, who own Lawless, reside in Seward, approximately six blocks from the site of the proposed cocktail room. As such, they do not have an interest in maintaining a neighborhood nuisance. We (as they say) "know where they live."

I support the application and believe that will add another positive aspect to the diverse offerings that we have in Seward.

Stephen H. Parsons  
2400 East 22nd Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55406  
612-205-1608