

DEC 10 2018

Martha Failing PC

November 26, 2018

Ms Emily Johnson
Project Manager
Sunset Advisory Commission
1501 N Congress Ave 6th Fl
Austin TX 78701

Re: Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Dear Ms Johnson:

The TABC touches the lives of residents living in the areas where bars operate. Here are suggestions for changes to the TABC sanctioned operating environments to relieve both the responsible bar owners and the nearby residents of objectionable activity:

Bar owners need to be good neighbors.

Noise pollution from "entertainment" at some licensee locations affects nearby residents in their homes. Residents may call law enforcement to complain about noisy bars and unruly crowds, but law enforcement has much more onerous burden and duties—the outside speakers and residents assaulted in their homes by the noise from the bars are low priorities to law enforcement.

Crime around bars affects the neighborhoods. If TABC had the authority to limit the number of bars within a given distance, crime would not be concentrated as it is now.

Trash is a major problem around licensees. By including provisions for maintaining the grounds and streets around bars, TABC could also upgrade the image of the trade it governs.

Residents need the power to bring to the attention of the TABC violators of the good neighbor standards at the time licenses are issued, when renewing licenses, and in the interim when bars are NOT good neighbors.

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The TABC has a legitimate obligation, through licensing power, to protect the public. By allowing residents to participate in licensing decisions by presenting complaints about the activities of bar management, TABC would hear from those most familiar with bar operations in weighing original and renewal applications.

TABC could be a source of policing licensees by allowing resident complaints made to law enforcement be used in determining whether a bar deserves a license or if a license should be revoked.

As part of the Sunset Advisory Commission, please consider changes including a Code of Responsibility that all licensees must adhere to and a regulation change so residents can bring to the attention of the TABC problem licensees so licensing decisions can include whether a licensee adds to or detracts from the neighborhood that surrounds it.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,



Martha Failing
West Riverside Civic Club

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