



July 15, 2009

Dear members of the Racine City Council,

Ordinance 6-09 requires that applicants applying for class A licenses must "show that the proposed establishment will have a greater economic impact upon the community than simply the addition of another tavern, liquor store, convenience store or restaurant". I believe that our pantry will have a positive economic impact in downtown Racine.

Presently, downtown Racine has far too many vacant commercial properties. Each vacant property sends a message. To prospective entrepreneurs, vacant properties signal economic distress, failure, and excessive risk. To residents, vacant businesses signal unmet needs, declining property values, desolation and perhaps danger. And to the criminal element, a vacancy signals isolation and opportunity. Vacant buildings are harmful to the image and the reality of business districts. On Main and 6th streets alone, I counted 15 or so large buildings sitting vacant. If we are granted a license to sell beer, we will fill one of these difficult to fill commercial buildings. In doing so, we expect to invest about \$150,000 initially to get our pantry operational. But more importantly, we will signal not economic distress and danger but rather economic opportunity, growth, and safety.

Many people may have their own ideas as to what businesses should occupy the numerous vacancies in downtown Racine. And while it may be interesting to contemplate the many possibilities, it is worth noting that at present it is only us who are willing to risk our own hard earned money to bring an idea to fruition. Between Caroline and myself, we have 45 years of retail experience. We know how to run a business and we understand quite well that reputable businesses have positive effects on an area. In fact, we are drawn to Racine in part because of the positive business environment created by our longtime friend, Mr. Choi.

I am aware of the efforts of city officials to attract artists and businesses to Racine. I am also aware that considerable taxpayer money has been spent toward that end. No such money or efforts are needed for us however. We already love Racine. We love the lake and we love the downtown. We hope to move from Barrington, Illinois and we want Racine to be our new home. With us we will bring our investment, our jobs, and our gratitude. Unfortunately, we believe that a Class A beer license is a necessary component of any successful convenient store business. Without one, we will have no choice but to abandon our plans. The choice is yours. Please help us make Racine our new home.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

C. Chun

Caroline and James Chun

JK Chun

Michael Choi
approved 7-17-09
MICHAEL CHOI / LANDLORD