

Office of the Mayor  
Cory Mason



City Hall  
730 Washington Ave  
Racine WI 53403  
262 636-9111  
262-636-9570 FAX  
mayor@cityofracine.org

June 20, 2025

Dear Clerk McMenamin,

I am writing to inform you and the Council of my decision to veto two items from the June 17, 2025 Council Meeting.

Those items are:

**Veto of Item 0494-25** A new application for a Class “A” Retail Fermented Malt Beverage License, and a Gas Station Service License for Fuel & Save LLC DBA Fuel & Save, located at 930 Washington Ave, Bashar Qedan, Agent; and

**Veto of Item 0495-25** A petition for geographical restrictions for a Class “A” Retail Fermented Malt Beverage License for Fuel & Save LLC DBA Fuel & Save, located at 930 Washington Ave, Bashar Qedan, Agent. These two vetoes address the same project. The first veto waives the geographic limitation on liquor license and the second veto grants the license after the restriction has been waived.

There are several reasons for my veto. The first is that if the Council, in its wisdom, chooses to give a waiver for a geographic restriction, there should be a compelling reason. While I appreciate what the redevelopment of the property *might* be with the license, the license in and of itself does not guarantee any type of redevelopment other than to grant a property with a liquor license.

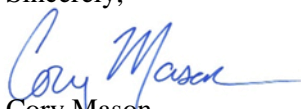
The second concern is that the proposal will need to be reviewed by the Planning Heritage and Design Committee for review in the Downtown area. Ideally, both permissions (for PHD and PS&L) would be granted or denied and then the proposed development would go to the Council for consideration at the same time. With our new legislative process all items move forward whether they have gone through all regulatory processes or not. A veto allows us to ensure that all regulatory reviews are completed before a project moves forward.

A third concern is that the proposed location is too close to two childcare facilities. Another liquor license nearby could cause tension points with these very different uses.

A fourth consideration: Two years ago there was a proposal to grant a liquor license near Douglas Avenue and High Street. The applicant said they really needed it for their project to proceed. The Council denied the request for a waiver, citing the geographic restriction. Today, the property is opening as a small grocery store instead. We don't have to accept the premise that the only way we can have more neighborhood markets is by granting more liquor licenses.

Lastly, Racine residents want fewer bars and liquor stores. As the City considers its comprehensive plan, we surveyed more than 2000 community members on what they want to see more of and what they want to see less of in our community. Approximately 60% of respondents said they wanted *fewer* liquor stores and bars in our neighborhoods. I look forward to discussing this with you further in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

  
Cory Mason  
Mayor