



07-0618

Dear City Clerk,

5/09/07

We the undersigned ask the city to enforce ordinance no.41-06, section 6-19 of the municipal code in regard to disturbances at Neighborhood Pantry, 1511 West Sixth St., Racine. We further ask that the liquor license of Neighborhood Pantry NOT be renewed. The problems are severe and long-standing. The violations of Section 6-19 B (3+4) that have occurred during business hours at Neighborhood Pantry are as follows:

Drug sales – Transactions witnessed in parking lot. There have been resident reports of drug sales occurring inside the store in front of employees. Store and lot frequented by known drug dealers. On some days known dealers have been noticed entering the store frequently, i.e. once an hour throughout the day or several times in an hour.

Drug use – People have been seen smoking blunts in the parking lot and inside the store.

Assault and robbery – In March 2007, an elderly man was beaten and robbed in front of the glass store doors. Employees did not help him or call police.

Weapons use and display – Gunshots have been fired in the parking lot. In the most recent incident, six shots were fired just outside the door. The employees locked the door. When asked about the incident by a resident who witnessed it, the employee denied there were shots fired. In another incident guns were displayed during a fight in the parking lot.

Fights – In warm weather fights are frequent, often involving 20-30 people and up to 50 people. At times the fights have spilled into 6th st. stopping traffic.

Loitering – Loitering often of long duration, hours not minutes. Loiterers' actions frequently include yelling, screaming, arguing, obscene language, fighting, breaking bottles, loud music, and smoking near gas pumps. Often the loiterers seem drunk or high. Truants and panhandlers are also seen. Customers leave their cars running with loud music playing while they shop and socialize.

Open intoxicants and consumption of intoxicants – This has been seen in parking lot and inside the store. People stand around in the parking lot drinking, then drive away.

Prostitution – Prostitutes pick up men in parking lot.

Reckless driving – People speed through lot, entering by one driveway and exiting by another. Customers squeal out of driveways barely stopping before entering the street. Teens have been seen bumper surfing in the lot for extended periods of time. Also, motorized go-carts riding around in the parking lot.

Additional concerns - Residents are concerned about the sale of drug paraphernalia, blunt wraps, etc. Recently a resident reported a man buying nothing except a large quantity of baking soda. Many residents report alcohol and cigarette sales to minors, and sales of single cigarettes. Minors are frequently seen near the store smoking or sometimes drinking what appears to be alcohol. Some children have reported that they are charged higher than the marked price. For instance, they are charged \$1.25 for soda priced at \$1.00 and 50 cents for snacks priced at 35 cents.

Please keep us informed of any meetings on this subject. Many of us would like to attend.

If more information is needed please contact; Wayne Clingman, 236 Jones St., Racine, WI 53404

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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