

Good Neighbors Report

To: Public Safety and Licensing Committee

From: Attorney Ian R. Pomplin

RE: Danny's Grocery and Lounge, Dixit Patel, Agent
1950 Taylor Avenue

Meeting date: Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Departments: Clerk, Police, City Development, Building, Health and Attorney in person.

License(s) requested: "Class B" (liquor) license and Class "B" (beer) license

Business plan and premises description. Mr. Patel intends to operate a combination grocery store and tavern that sells groceries, deli sandwiches, hot food and alcohol by the glass. This is the location of the prior Ace Hardware on Taylor Avenue. The establishment will require remodeling and will be able to begin operation in a few months.

Owner/agent experience. Mr. Patel is the agent at Christianos Supermarket at 2054 Kearney Avenue, and has experience working within a licensed establishment selling packaged alcohol for off-premises consumption. He has no experience with selling alcohol for on premises consumption.

Health department. The establishment has not yet been approved by the health department. The agent was instructed to contact the health department to obtain the necessary approvals.

City Development and Building. The establishment has been approved by City Development for grocery and tavern use. The location is not zoned for pre-packaged alcohol sales nor is it zoned for tobacco, cigarette, and electronic vaping device sale, and has not received approval for that usage. Accordingly, Mr. Patel cannot sell alcohol for off premises consumption at this location, only for on-premises consumption. Mr. Patel was provided contact information from the Building Department and was informed that all his work needs to be permitted and once the work is completed, they will perform their occupancy inspection.

Police Department issues. Mr. Patel discussed the common issues that arise for businesses that hold liquor licenses with Sgt. Cruz. Mr. Patel was reminded that he needed to have staff with operator's licenses to serve alcohol. Information was provided on licensed premises checks. Sgt. Cruz provided information that the prior establishment in this location did not have a liquor license, so there was no history of previous issues. The applicant was informed about issues that other licensed establishments with large parking lots have faced and was provided with information on strategies to reduce misbehavior due to the large parking lot at this location.

Application. Deputy Clerk Williams and licensing lead Zavala reviewed the application with Mr. Cain and worked with the applicant to more accurately write the premises description.

Overall Summary

The premises at 1950 Taylor raises slight concerns with city staff, due to the applicants inexperience with selling alcohol for on-premises consumption. These concerns are tempered by the applicants successful history of selling alcohol for off-premises consumption.

The applicant has applied for a tobacco license; however, this is a location that does not permit the sale of tobacco. That specific license may be pulled out and denied if the committee so desires.

Further, due to the business being not yet operational, it is recommended that if the committee determines that it will approve this license, it should approve conditioned upon the location becoming operational within six months.