

Good Neighbors Report

To: Public Safety and Licensing Committee

From: Attorney Ian R. Pomplin

RE: Marino's Little Italy, Logan Marino, Agent
1238 Lathrop Avenue.

Meeting date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Departments: Health, Police, Clerk, City Development, and Attorney in person,
Building submitted a written report due to scheduling conflicts

License(s) requested: Class "B" (beer) and "Class C" (wine) licenses

Business plan and premises description. Mr. Marino intends to open a restaurant at the location of the recently closed Bernies Pizzeria, and this new restaurant will continue to serve Italian food for dine-in and carryout. The restaurant is not yet open and intends to open on or about February 11, 2026.

Owner/agent experience. Mr. Marino has approximately five years of experience as a bartender at the former Corner House on the Lake.

Health department. The restaurant has yet to receive approval by the health department. The applicant was provided with contact information to work with the City to obtain this approval and ensure it can be appropriately licensed.

City Development and Building. The restaurant has yet to receive approval by the Building department. Only one outstanding issue exists, the restaurant needs the hood ansul (fire suppression) system recertified. This should be a straightforward cure. The applicant was provided with contact information to work with the City during the renovation to ensure it can be appropriately licensed.

Police Department issues. Mr. Marino discussed the common issues that arise for businesses that hold liquor licenses with Sgt. Cruz and Attorney Pomplin. Mr. Marino was reminded that he needed to have staff with operator's licenses to serve alcohol. Closing hours were discussed, and the applicant intends to amend his closing hours to provide slightly more flexibility with closing times.

Amended Application. Deputy City Clerk Williams talked with Mr. Marino about areas in which his application was incomplete, and to clarify his hours of operation. Mr. Marino has submitted an amended application with updated information and hours of operation that more accurately fit the hours in which he intends to operate.

Overall Summary

The premise at 1238 Lathrop Ave does not raise concerns to city staff, provided that the premises is operated within the scope of the written business plan and that Mr. Marino obtains the necessary approvals that he has yet to receive.

Given that the business has not yet been granted necessary health permits or building approvals, the Committee should approve a “conditional grant of the license” if it is so inclined, which would require the applicant to start operating within six months of the date of the common council approval.

Further, if the Committee were inclined to approve the application, it should be approved as amended to include the updated information and hours on the application.