

Good Neighbors Report

To: Public Safety and Licensing Committee

From: Attorney Ian R. Pomplin

RE: Sam & Wills Pizzeria & Pub, LLC., Samantha Stanko, Agent
3840 Douglas Ave.

Meeting date: Tuesday, April 28, 2026

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

License(s) requested: “Class B” (liquor) and Class “B” (beer) licenses

Business plan and premises description. Ms. Stanko intends to open a bar and restaurant at the location of the recently closed Durango’s, and this new bar and restaurant will operate as an Italian restaurant. She intends to primarily be a restaurant, specializing in serving pizza and pasta. The bar is not yet open and intends to open on or about the third week in May, 2026.

Owner/agent experience. Ms. Stanko has extensive experience in the liquor industry, she has successfully operated Nonna’s Pizzeria on 4 Mile Road as well as Nonna’s Pizzeria in Sturtevant for many years. She intends to close the Nonna’s Pizzeria on 4 Mile Road and operate only this new location and the Sturtevant location. Ms. Stanko intends to primarily be at the Douglas Ave location until the business has operated for some time.

Health department. The establishment has yet to receive approval by the health department. The applicant will need to work with the City to obtain this approval and ensure it can be appropriately licensed.

City Development and Building. The establishment has yet to receive approval from the Building department, but this has been scheduled and Building expects little to no difficulty in the premises receiving its occupancy license. The previous establishment had an occupancy license. City Development provided contact information if any issues arise with outside signage or other external changes to the property.

Police Department issues. Ms. Stanko discussed the common issues that arise for businesses that hold liquor licenses with Attorney Pomplin and Sgt. Cruz. Ms. Stanko was reminded that she needed to have staff with operator’s licenses to serve alcohol. Closing hours were discussed, as well as providing information on licensed premises checks.

Amended Application. Deputy City Clerk Williams about the premises description and the hours of operation. Ms. Stanko has submitted an amended application with an updated premises description to more accurately fit her operational realities of where alcohol will be stored, served, and sold. She has also adjusted the hours on the application to allow some flexibility with

customers finishing meals and being open every day of the week to allow for private events that may occur during times her posted hours indicate she will be closed.

Overall Summary

The premise at 3840 Douglas Ave does not raise concerns to city staff, provided that the premises is operated within the scope of the written business plan and that Ms. Stanko obtains the necessary approvals that she 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 premises description and hours.