To: Council
From: Mayor

Jeffrey Riedl
408 Appleton Street
Menasha, WI 54952

July 5, 2010

Alderman Michael Taylor
545 Broad St.
Menasha, WI 54952

Alderman Taylor,

I am writing in advance of what I anticipate will be a request made to the city for an Outdoor Beer Garden license and / or a variance from the Outdoor Beer Garden ordinance passed in the last couple of years. In the July 2 crime reporter, I note that the City Limits Bar had several patrons out on their new deck with open containers without permit for an Outdoor Beer Garden. (See MP10-002259).

Hopefully the Menasha PD will step up enforcement efforts in whatever way possible so the patrons don't get the idea that the deck is there to sit and have a beer while smoking outdoors. The noise from bar patrons yelling profanities over the years has been enough when the deck was not in place, now that it is there I cannot imagine our neighborhood will be getting any more peaceful in the night time hours. Having customers out on the deck will only encourage more activity between those 'in' and those 'out' in the parking lot or on the street. Not an attractive prospect for neighboring residences or their property owners.

I'm sure you are well aware that I have, for several years now, been critical of the city's long and grim track record for allowing "whatever / wherever" without regard to the impact of business operations on the neighboring residents or on the value of their property as a result of these operations. Cases in point, the bar in question, the pallet and crate making business which was operating east of Appleton Street south of the tracks with their incessant radio blasting, barn fans running and air-gun popping throughout the night, and now Alliance Coatings 'spray booth', heavily dropped loads from the fork lift, and clanging of metal products being processed which operates 24/7 as business dictates. Selling a property these days is tough enough – having more negative influences from nearby businesses makes it even less likely that we can recoup the original purchase price from 15 years ago, much less make up for inflation, improvements, and the property taxes paid over those years.

I cannot, in good conscience, allow my neighborhood (and consequently my property value) to be further deteriorated by the peripheral issues which would arise should such an ordinance or variance be granted for an outdoor beer garden at the City Limits. Should the city grant such a privilege to this business, I will have no choice but to seek legal remedy for the intentional damage brought upon our neighborhood by the city and the consequential distress brought upon my property's value in the marketplace. I would not at all be surprised if other neighbors may join me in class action regarding this matter.

Regards,

Jeff Riedl

cc: Mayor Don Merkes
cc: Menasha Police Dept. c/o Aaron Zemlock (by e-mail)
cc: City Clerk Debbie Galeazzi (by e-mail)