

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

City Council

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May 30, 2019

Mr. Steven Chavez, Liquor Hearing Officer City of Albuquerque 1 Civic Plaza NW, 9th Floor Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: License Transfers for 7-11 Stores at Central and Solano SE and Kathryn and San Mateo SE

Hearing Officer Chavez –

I understand that you will be considering a request for a license transfer for the above referenced 7-11 stores. I understand that the nature of the transfer is limited to ownership of the license, but I am writing to urge to the greatest extent permissible that you consider the detriment to the health, safety and welfare of this area that can be associated with these licenses at these locations.

For the 7-11 located at 3801 Central Ave. SE, the sale of alcohol for consumption off premise has been prohibited since 1987, when the use was prohibited through the adoption of the Nob Hill Sector Development Plan. The 1987 Nob Hill Sector Plan sought to address a series of recommendations from a 1984 Nob Hill Study; these recommendations identified the sale of alcohol for consumption off premise as problematic. The prohibition has continued since 1987 and was carried over with the 2007 Nob Hill Highland Sector Development Plan, and the adoption of the Integrated Development Ordinance in November 2017.

In addition, these 7-11 Stores have been associated with an inordinate number of police calls for service. Between January 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019, the store at 3801 Central SE generated 437 police calls for Service including:

- 41 shoplifting grab and runs forgery
- 4 warrants
- 125 suspicious calls
- 246 disturbance calls to include fights, panhandler, shots fired
- 2 vandalisms
- 19 assault calls to include 1 stabbing

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By comparison, the blocks immediately adjacent to the 3800 block showed fewer than 20 calls total over the same period.

During this same time period, the location at 5401 Kathryn SE generated 296 calls including:

- 296 calls for service
- 13 assaults to include 2 stabbings and 1 shooting
- 49 larceny's
- 3 found stolen vehicles
- 31 suspicious calls
- 12 domestic calls
- 195 disturbance calls to include shots fired, panhandling
- 3 felony warrants

Simply put, the availability of alcohol for off premise consumption has proven to be incompatible with other uses in the neighborhood and the records demonstrate that the City is required to devote a disproportionate amount of public resources to respond to and restore the health and safety of the neighborhoods when the license holders fail, time and time again, to prevent the negative impacts of their off premise sales from negatively impacting others.

Were the Central Avenue application a *de novo* application, it would be prohibited by long-standing ordinances designed to support neighborhood revitalization. This ownership change is essentially technical (transferring from one 7-11 corporate entity to another). The new owners have not submitted any proposed changes to their operating plan under a new or transferred permit that would mitigate the negative health and safety impacts of these off premise sales at this location.

I urge you to consider these factors in considering these applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Davis

City Councilor, District 6