

5/24/2023

Peter Fiore
58 Mott Street
Arlington, MA 02474

Arlington Select Board
Arlington Town Hall
730 Mass Ave
Arlington, MA 02475

Dear Members of the Select Board,

Regarding the alcohol licensing hearing for 232 Mass Ave on June 5th, 2023:

East Arlington already has two liquor stores. Approving a license for a third will place almost half (3 of 7) the town's liquor stores in East Arlington. This store would be within two blocks of the liquor store on Broadway and only a few blocks from the liquor store further east on Mass Ave. All would be within approximately one-quarter mile of each other. These two existing stores compete against each other as well as the liquor store in Somerville at the intersection of Broadway and Alewife Brook Parkway, the liquor store on Mass Ave in North Cambridge, the two liquor stores at the Fresh Pond Rotary, and the four other liquor stores in Arlington. East Arlington consumers have a "variety of shops" with no need to saturate the neighborhood.

When, with planning and citizen input, after the town went from dry to wet, there was a promise that the three original liquor store licenses would be distributed among East Arlington, Arlington Center, and Arlington Heights. The Select Board in short order dismissed that promise and located two of the three original licenses in East Arlington. While there are stores further west on Mass Ave and in Arlington Heights, all these years later there is no liquor store in Arlington Center despite "convenient and attractive parking options". Several empty storefronts or former restaurants could accommodate a liquor store in Arlington Center.

The proposed location is a poor location for this store. It lacks "convenient and attractive parking options". The intersection of Orvis Road and Mass Ave has no traffic signal and is difficult for cars and pedestrians to navigate. The Post Office already on the block has cars stopping while drivers quickly run in for transactions. Adding another business that will have cars traveling east on Mass Ave looking to park in front of the liquor store, while slowing in front of cars trying to exit Orvis Road and pedestrians trying to cross either street, will increase the risk of accidents.

Respectfully, Peter Fiore