

**From:** Rafael  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2020 9:33 PM  
**To:** Thomas Veatch  
**Cc:** Mary Ann  
**Subject:** Item Number: ID 20-001417, Date: October 21, 2020

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Thomas,

Below are our comments supporting the Planning Commission's original decision to deny Conditional Use Permit No. P20-02558.

**Item Number: ID 20-001417**  
**Date: October 21, 2020**

**From: Rafael and Mary Ann Villegas**  
**10149 North Sierra Vista Avenue**  
**Fresno, CA. 93730**

**Dear Planning Commission,**

**This letter supports the Planning Commission's original decision to deny Conditional Use Permit No. P20-02558.**

Research and numerous studies have shown these types of liquor stores that sell alcohol ready for immediate consumption on a street corner, in a nearby park, school grounds or in vehicles result in excessive drinking, public drunkenness, disorderly conduct, automobile crashes, excessive noise and physical violence.

Officials concerned about the health of our communities must not ignore the links between alcohol and crime. The ready availability of liquor leads to high incidences of alcohol abuse, progressing to disorderly neighborhoods and dangerous streets.

In the classic Disorder and Decline: Crime and the Spiral of Decay in American Cities, a 1990 study of community breakdown in American cities by Wesley Skogan, public drinking was ranked first among the disorders identified by residents across 40 neighborhoods.

A summary of the evidence is stated by Columbia Law School professor, Jeffrey Fagan: "Alcohol use has been associated with assaultive and sex-related crimes, serious youth crime, family violence toward both spouses and children, being both a homicide victim and a perpetrator, and persistent aggression as an adult. Alcohol 'problems' occur disproportionately among both juveniles and adults who report violent behaviors."

These negative impacts of alcohol availability are particularly troubling since our residential neighborhood includes Clovis Community College, Clovis North High School, Granite Ridge Intermediate School, Copper Hills Elementary School, Riverview Elementary School and Todd Beamer Park, all of which are within a short walk to the proposed location for the liquor store.

As Thomas A. LaVeist, PhD, MA, associate professor, Health Policy and Management, the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, has said, "The availability of alcohol in communities is an issue that policy makers, health professionals, clergy, community activists and other concerned citizens must address in their efforts to reduce alcohol abuse and its effects ...."

Our city needs to focus on policies aimed at cutting crime by curbing alcohol availability and consumption.

**We request the Planning Commission deny Conditional Use Permit No. P20-02558.**

Sincerely,

Rafael and Mary Ann Villegas