



Alderman Brian Hopkins
2nd Ward
1400 N. Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60622

RE: Sidewalk Cafe Application for Space 519-200 E Chestnut

Dear Ald. Hopkins:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review process for Sidewalk Cafes in Streeterville. While we understand that our role is limited, we welcome the opportunity to present issues that we know will effect our residents.

Representatives of our Land Use & Development Task Force met with the owner of Space 519 to review their proposed plans for a sidewalk cafe at 200 E Chestnut. Even though that block of Chestnut is a mixed-use block containing both residential and commercial uses, it does have the feel of a more residential neighborhood and not the congestion of a block with more commercial uses. We reviewed with the representative of Space 519, the proposed layout, hours of operation & fencing/landscaping.

The main issues we discussed were:

1. Layout - we made it very clear that there must be a clear 6 ft path around the cafe. Given that the sidewalk at the area does not present a straight path and that bikes tend to be locked to the signs, it is imperative that the ownership and the City adhere to the 6ft clearance at all times and that no fencing, planters, etc. encroached into that area.
2. Hours of operation - the application indicates 8AM- 12AM. SOAR does not believe that those hours of operation are appropriate since there are residents next door and the hotel up above. The owner indicated that they were only go to stay open till 8 since they really didn't plan to serve meals just heavy appetizers. So we were pleased and would request that their

Streeterville Organization of Active Residents

just heavy appetizers. So we were pleased and would request that their permit reflects said hours till only 8PM. We understand that the City Ordinance does allow for later hours but we do not believe that the City envisioned Sidewalk Cafes in residential areas.

3. Fencing/landscaping - Space 519 plans to integrate the plantings with the fencing. It is very important that the fencing and the planters are such that the 6ft clear walk space is maintained. We have noticed that as the season of sidewalk cafes progresses, the space for the cafes begin to encroach into the dedicated walkway.

The SOAR Board has reviewed these recommendations and has approved them. We thank you again for the opportunity to provide our input.

Sincerely,

Deborah Gershbein
President, SOAR

Judy Aiello
Co-Chair Land Use
& Development Task
Force

Gail Spreen
Co-Chair Land Use
& Development Task
Force