

From: O'Brien Family

Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 10:33 AM

To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

Subject: 17-1017 1 9-b Ann Arbor Distillery Private Hall Rental Special Exception for City Planning Commission Approval

As a citizen of Ann Arbor in the neighborhood of the Ann Arbor Distillery (Wines Drive), I would like to express my support for the approval of the Special Exceptions permit for the Ann Arbor Distillery, 17-1017, 1, 9-b.

The Distillery has been a welcome addition to the neighborhood and we enjoy to entertainment events they are able to offer at low cost to area non-profits and musicians. In particular regarding this permit, as a fan of the local live recording of NPR's nation-wide program, the Moth radio hour, I greatly value having a non-profit friendly and affordable venue for the local live Storyslams that are critical to this national radio program.

The Distillery has been a welcoming and comfortable venue for the 200 bi-weekly attendees at the Storyslams. There are very few spacious and affordable locations where attendees can purchase alcohol and bring in outside food. Note that this program, the Moth in Ann Arbor, is attended by people from all over our region and as far away as New York and Chicago as the Ann Arbor Storyslams have a national reputation for excellence and accessibility. The participants and attendees also enjoy Ann Arbor's vibrant downtown, shopping, and dining before the shows and downtown bars afterwards. Attendees at the Distillery are able to park in the Ann-Ashley Parking structure and walk just 2 blocks to the venue.

Please approve this Special use permit and continue Ann Arbor's strong support for the arts and for the work of non-profits. Having such a spacious and affordable space available to arts groups, specifically in the downtown area, is critical to the continued vibrancy of our downtown.

Sincerely, Mattie and Bob O'Brien