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**From:** Raymond Graff [<mailto:dublinsquare@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thu 9/1/2011 11:01 PM  
**To:** Nordstrom Ritchie; Kooiker Sam  
**Subject:** Main St. Square Liquor License

I would like to voice my concern with increased alcohol licenses for specialty events, city sponsored or actual city agencies. The Main St Square was designed and promoted as a way to bring business to the downtown not take business away from like businesses downtown. This license request seems to be sought to offset revenue shortfalls at the expense of other restaurants and bars in the downtown that have to struggle now. You have allowed the Summer Nights group to have exclusivity to alcohol sales for their event at the expense of other establishments as well as allow blockage of traffic for other downtown establishments with an ill conceived downtown closure of Main St.. This continuation of an unfair playing field, to other specialty groups, or businesses that are favored by the specialty groups or special events due to a multitude of reasons must be explored and discouraged. The City wants us to all work together for the betterment of the shole, but they are unwilling to stop the practices that casue these separations to happen.

Look at the license at the Civic Center which has exclusive rights and the ability to keep patrons at large events at the civic center for the stock show and other events instead of encouraging these people to go to other establishments downtown and elsewhere. Destination Rapid City and the City in general should be encouraging people to go to other downtown businesses to purchase alcohol and food and not funnel it to themselves for their needs.

We are on a slippery slope by increasing and encouraging more like businesses, especially in the area of food and alcohol, when there is an explosion of these businesses now in the downtown, Rushmore crossing and soon will be developing in the new Wal Mart area in the south end of town. This type of expansion could be encouraged if we had an appropriate expansion of population but that's not the case. Our population is not growing in the same explosion as the amount of businesses. So in the end you are encouraging a dilution of the same demographic to more areas and thereby will cause a destruction of the downtown and our city over time. How do you see the downtown supporting the amount of bars, restaurants that is currently being supported. But that is private business, and that type of competition must be supported. But we should not allow an entity that has support of taxation that same advantage. A special event permit is sufficient.

Build our city in the area of new businesses and industry that will bring new people to our town, so that this type of growth makes sense and doesn't end up hurting current businesses.

Should I pay a business improvement tax to sustain an entity that will compete with me? What are you telling businesses who support this city by taxation by allowing an unfair advantage??

Show us that a new voice is in place and that our good old boys club went away with our last election.

Thank you

Raymond Graff  
Dublin Square Irish Pub and Grill

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