

Public Comment for N Elston Ave

David B <dkbarry18@outlook.com>

Wed 6/14/2023 9:52 AM

To:CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to submit a public comment regarding the proposed restaurant at 1675 N Elston. I want to ask that the CPC consider adding protection to the northbound Elston bike lane north and south of the proposed location. This is vital in allowing bike riders to safely travel down Elston – including to the new restaurant at 1675 N Elston.

- The protected bike lane in front of the restaurant doesn't do much good if bike riders must travel through unprotected bike lanes to get there – especially when rideshare cars are waiting in the unprotected bike lanes. Given the climate emergency our city and country are in, the increased congestion on our roads, and the rise in traffic fatality rates, we should do everything we can as a City (and you, as planners) to protect and encourage sustainable modes of transportation.
- Bike lanes are good for business! See links at bottom for some quick literature I found on how bike lanes help businesses. These links were from a quick Google search on my phone. I'm sure you all could find more extensive and germane research in a deeper search.

https://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/site/images/uploads/Protected_Bike_Lanes_Mean_Business.pdf

<https://www.cambridgebikesafety.org/2021/09/22/bike-lanes-and-local-business-the-economic-impact/>

Thank you,

David Barry

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773-551-6641



June 13, 2023

Ms. Laura Flores, Chair
Chicago Plan Commission
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Re: NBW letter regarding the proposed rezoning of 1675 N Elston Avenue from M3-3 to C2-1

Dear Chair Flores:

North Branch Works (NBW) appreciates the opportunity to share feedback regarding the proposed rezoning of 1675 N Elston to allow for an events venue that could accommodate as many as 1,000 people.

The property at 1675 N Elston Avenue is located within the North Branch Industrial Corridor. We spoke with our member businesses in the area, including Sipi Metals, Howe Corporation, The Hideout, and Vin Chicago.

Our businesses expressed the following concerns: the lack of available parking along this stretch of Elston Avenue to accommodate this use, and the need for security services to ensure public safety, especially when events end at 4 a.m. We would like to see these concerns addressed should the rezoning be approved.

As a City of Chicago delegate agency for the Local Industrial Retention Initiative (LIRI), we would prefer to see land zoned for industrial and manufacturing uses maintained. This would give us the opportunity to recruit new industrial companies to Chicago that provide high-quality jobs that do not require advanced degrees. At the same time, we recognize the North Branch Framework Plan introduced a wider range of allowable uses in our service area.

We are pleased the applicant, 1675 Holdings LLC, met with us and about his commitment to being a good neighbor and developing a plan of operations with Ald. Waguespack's office. In addition, we appreciate his support for resuming the CTA's Elston Avenue bus line, one of our top priorities for the North Branch. If the rezoning is approved, we look forward to working with 1675 Holdings LLC and connecting the business to grants, city programs, and growth opportunities.

NBW is a membership-supported nonprofit neighborhood organization that for forty years has promoted balanced, job-creating economic development along the North Branch of the Chicago River. We are also a City of Chicago "delegate agency" providing an array of support services to local businesses.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Simmons".

Steve Simmons
Director of Business and Economic Development

cc: Ald. Scott Waguespack, 32nd Ward
Thomas Raines, Attorney at Law LLC
Tim Barton, Attorney at Law LLC