

## **Ismail, Mohamed M.**

---

**From:** Allison Sharkey <asharkey@lakestreetcouncil.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 1:38 PM  
**To:** Ismail, Mohamed M.  
**Cc:** Tracie Munce; Gordon, Cam A.  
**Subject:** Merlin's Rest

Mohamed,

Ramadan Mubarak to you and your family.

The Lake Street Council is happy to support the application of Merlin's Rest for 5 additional sidewalk tables. We know Merlin's to be a respectful neighbor. Patio seating adds greatly to the vibrancy and livability of the neighborhood.

Thank you for your assistance,  
Allison Sharkey

**Allison Sharkey**  
**Executive Director**  
Lake Street Council | 919 E. Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407  
612-824-7420 | [asharkey@lakestreetcouncil.org](mailto:asharkey@lakestreetcouncil.org)  
[visitlakestreet.com](http://visitlakestreet.com) | [lakestreetcouncil.org](http://lakestreetcouncil.org) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lakestreetcouncil)



DBA/Trade Name: Merlins Rest Pub

Date of Public Hearing: June 21, 2016

REGINALD CRAWFORD

Your Name: ELIZABETH SOHN

Your Address: 3022 37th Av S

Comments:

Permanent - seasonal?

Good neighbors & well managed business.

This proposal is OK with us

Signature:

Reginald Crawford  
Elizabeth Sohn

Date:

6-12-16

You may return this response to:

Division of Licenses and Consumer Services

Room 1 City Hall

350 5th Street South

Minneapolis MN 55415

[BusinessLicenses@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:BusinessLicenses@minneapolismn.gov)

FAX 612-673-3399

Inspector: Mohamed Ismail

**Ismail, Mohamed M.**

---

**From:** Townsend, Shannon <Shannon.Townsend@bestbuy.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 1:37 PM  
**To:** Ismail, Mohamed M.  
**Subject:** Merlin's Rest gets my support!

Good afternoon Mr. Ismail

My name is Shannon Townsend. I'm a Chicago transplant that has been living in Minneapolis for almost 6 years, and my husband and I are frequent diners and regulars at Merlin's Rest.

Merlin's has become something of a home away from home for me. I spent much time back in Chicago at the Irish American Heritage Center's Fifth Province pub, and Merlin's is the one place in Minneapolis that carries that same authentic and wonderful vibe that I miss from back home. Tracie and Lee have always been consummate professionals, working hard to accommodate their guests. When I started coming more regularly, I especially took notice of Tracie's interaction with guests. You can tell just sitting and watching her, Lee, and the rest of the staff that Merlin's is a place where they genuinely CARE about their guests. They want people to have the best experience possible, to make sure that people are genuinely enjoying their food and drink and the ambiance. They are social, provide excellent food and service, and have a very well established local following. They are, in my opinion, one of the best pubs in the cities. Tracie and Lee are total professionals.

I 100% support the expansion of Merlin's. The venue would certainly benefit from more outdoor tables, and as a regular I would appreciate the expanded space to dine. I frequently bring friends and family from out of town to their patio and rarely am I able to get an outdoor seat. I think this expansion would benefit the pub, the neighborhood, and their customer base.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope to hear more exciting news soon! Have an excellent day!

**Shannon Townsend**

*Training Administrative Coordinator*

Best Buy Training, Learning & Development

612-291-3340

[Shannon.Townsend@bestbuy.com](mailto:Shannon.Townsend@bestbuy.com)

*[Information on Best Buy charitable programs](#)*



**Employee  
Giving Program  
#DONEGOOD**

*I gave to Can Do Canines, an organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities. When a Best Buy employee gives to a cause that's important to them, Best Buy will match it by 40%. Learn more and help spread the word!*



Longfellow  
Business  
Association

*at the intersection of community & business*

Mohamed Ismail  
City of Minneapolis  
Licenses and Consumer Services  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> ST  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

June 16, 2016

Dear Mohamed,

Longfellow Business Association fully supports Merlins Rest Pub's application to expand their sidewalk café by adding seating for an additional 20 patrons.

Merlins Rest is a popular neighborhood gathering spot and good community partner. Merlins activities such as Pub Quiz, car shows, dance lessons, pub sings, summer block events, whiskey tastings, and kilt nights add to the vibrancy of the Longfellow community and the growing restaurant destination corridor that E Lake Street has become. Much of their programming is family friendly.

Merlins application conforms to the zoning requirements for their location. No additional parking is required by the city.

Longfellow Business Association represents the Longfellow business community. We represent over 100 active members.

If you have any questions please contact staff Ruth Romano @ 612.294.6968 or [ruth@longfellowbusinessassociation.org](mailto:ruth@longfellowbusinessassociation.org).

Thank you for your consideration.

*Kristi*

Kristi Adams  
Co-chair

## **Ismail, Mohamed M.**

---

**From:** M Coady <sullcoad@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 10:38 AM  
**To:** Ismail, Mohamed M.  
**Cc:** Michael 3024 neighbor Bredemeier; M Coady; dwdebe@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Merlins request to expanse sidewalk cafe space response from neighbor  
**Attachments:** 20160430\_181555.jpg; 20160430\_181538.jpg; 20160430\_181532.jpg; 20160430\_181459.jpg

I received a letter requesting public opinion and comments related to Merlins request to increase outdoor seating.

**Please do NOT allow Merlins to increase their sidewalk capacity . . .** until the parking lot, for which Merlins is ½ responsible, has met city required improvements. This includes resurfacing it to remove the potholes, regularly/daily removal of the debris, enclose the garbage receptacles and have parking lines stripped.

I own the 4-plex (3024 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. S), just around the corner from Merlins and the parking lot has been rapidly deteriorating for years. In fact, people do NOT use it as they fear for the safety and integrity of their autos.

While this zoning license does NOT require additional parking it is unclear how the city thinks additional seating for 22 more patrons will be handled from a parking stand point. And to allow for this requested improvement, hopefully the city will use this request as LEVERAGE to get owner of addresses 3010 and 3012 36th Ave. S – (3012 owned by Merlin's owner Lee Tomlin and 3010 owned by BAM-B, LLC, Brooks Mahoney) to get their joint parking lot up to code and take the responsible actions. So, by that I mean, that the city should deny this request until the parking lot, meant for Merlin's customers is brought up to city expected standards; as merchants in the uptown and elsewhere have been required to do.

Merlins has become a local favorite. I wonder if people would appreciate them as much, if they knew that the parking lot, for which the owner of Merlin's has half the responsibility for, is not meeting city code and the owner seems unwilling to provide the necessary repairs and maintenance for his customers. I suspect that people think this is just another city lot falling apart, but NO it is for Merlin's customers. And you'll notice on any given night people try NOT to park here as it is in horrid repair with potholes, no lines and is just a mess; rather people park on the streets causing a nuisance for the neighbors, including my tenants.

The attached photos were taken early June showing Merlins parking lot. These were sent to the city and I personally shared them with Mr. Tomlin. He was verbally abusive and dismissive of his responsibilities, when showed these photos.

## **Ismail, Mohamed M.**

---

**From:** Michael <mbredemeier@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 11:35 AM  
**To:** Ismail, Mohamed M.  
**Subject:** Merlin's request for more outdoor seating

Hello Mohamed,

I am the home owner right next to the parking lot that Merlin's shares with BAM, LLC. I do not think it is right as a city to allow this expansion until something is done about the parking lot; it is an eyesore in our neighborhood.

The parking lot itself is full of large pot holes and the garbage dumpsters are usually overflowing. Because they are not inclosed, people drive down the alley and throw their trash out; which will often be left for days as the trucks won't pick it up.

The other side of my hedge, on their property, is littered with trash and an over run jungle of weeds that encroaches into my yard. In the spring, the run off from the snow seeps into my basement.

This space is a mess. People don't use the lot because fear of ruining their cars, so where will more people park? In the already full street that residents can't use because it's taken up by students at the barber school and more patron of Merlin's?

Merlin's has become a very popular neighborhood pup; I love going there myself to sit with friends and help it prosper. As I walk my dog down Lake St., I see Hi-Lo Diner...fenced in dumpsters, Peppers and Fries...fenced in dumpsters...as are most of the other business on Lake St. Please do the right thing and make Merlin's and BAM, LLC fix this lot before creating more flow and trash in our neighborhood.

Thank you for your time,  
Michael

Sent from my iPad

**Ismail, Mohamed M.**

---

**From:** Jane Strauss <janestrauss@janesprints.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 2:44 PM  
**To:** Ismail, Mohamed M.  
**Subject:** Merlin's Rest, parking issues

To whom it may concern:

I have been concerned about the state of Merlin's parking lot and the tendency of their patrons to take up all street parking since the Pub opened. It's a lovely place, and the clientele is far more civilized than that at the prior tenant, Popeye's, but the parking lot is a wreck, and does not even have signage indicating that it is available for their patrons. We don't dare have people over on a weekend, as we live across the street at 3026 36th Ave S, and our guests can rarely find a place to park.

If there are standards for parking lot maintenance in the city, I believe those need to be complied with before Merlin's is permitted to expand their seating capacity. At a minimum the lot needs repaving, striping and clear, visible signage indicating that it is for Merlin's patrons. If it was used by their customers I am quite certain that all the on street parking would not be taken four nights out of seven, and I would be able to park near my house on returning from meetings in the evening.

--  
Jane Strauss  
Jane's Prints  
Digital Arts for the Masses  
<http://www.janesprints.com>

**Ismail, Mohamed M.**

---

**From:** Michelle Clark <m.michelle.clark@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 2:05 PM  
**To:** Ismail, Mohamed M.  
**Subject:** Merlins Rest Patio Expansion

Dear Sir,

I understand that Merlins Rest is asking to expand their existing patio area to include more tables. I think this will be a welcome thing for the neighborhood.

Merlins Rest is a great place. They make sure to be extremely welcoming and positive. They work hard on making sure their establishment is pleasant, respectful, and neat. Partly because of this they often end up with people waiting for tables. Additional tables outside would ease this & allow more patrons to enjoy the outdoors as weather permits.

Whenever I have had a chance to sit outside at Merlins Rest, I know they have been diligent in keeping the sidewalk clear enough for regular pedestrians to easily use the sidewalk. I expect this will continue even with expanded patio service.

In addition, I find if a restaurant has patio service that is kept up, it makes me feel as if the neighborhood as a whole is more welcoming & pleasant. There is more of a feeling of community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts on the matter.

Sincerely,

Michelle Clark

Your Name: TOM DVOZAK Your Address: 3015 35TH AVE SO.

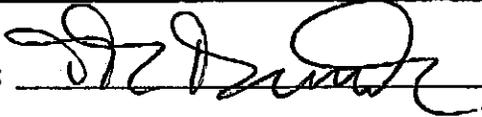
## Comments:

I AM ADVISING THAT MERLINS' APPLICATION BE DENIED UNTIL THEIR PARKING LOT AT THE SW CORNER OF 30TH AVE / LAKE SO. IS TOTALLY REPAVED AND THEIR DUMPSTERS ARE ENTIRELY CONTAINED IN A LOCKED AND FENCED ENCLOSURE.

ROBUE DUMPING IS A CONTINUAL PROBLEM AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A PROBLEM IF NOT ENCLOSED. THIS IS BOTH A HEALTH AND NOISE HAZARD.

TWO CALLS TO CAM GORDON HAVE GONE UNANSWERED — THE ZONING AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENTS MUST ENFORCE THIS HEALTH AND AESTHETIC ISSUE. THE CITY NEEDS TO ENFORCE ACTION ON MERLINS JUST AS IT WOULD ON A PRIVATE HOME.

HEY MERLINS — HOW ABOUT BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND RECTIFYING YOUR DEREGIT LOT, AND UNSIGHTLY DUMPSTERS?!!

Signature: Date: 5-14-16

You may return this response to:

Division of Licenses and Consumer Services

Room 1 City Hall

350 5<sup>th</sup> Street South

Minneapolis MN 55415

[BusinessLicenses@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:BusinessLicenses@minneapolismn.gov)

FAX 612-673-3399

Inspector: Mohamed Ismail