

I am Carol Greitzer. I formerly represented the CB5 area in the City Council and I strongly oppose granting a liquor license to the restaurant the Parks Department wants to install in the Pavilion at Union Square Park.

First – let’s consider the 200-foot rule. It’s **not** the **buildings** the lawmakers sought to protect; it’s the children going to the schools. The Union Square Park playground is not 200 feet away, not 100 feet. It is zero feet from the pavilion , and at times there are well over 100 children in this space – in danger of being subject to the sight, sounds and smells that would emanate from a bar. This is a ridiculous situation. Surely – had the lawmakers ever dreamed that the Parks Department would sanction a restaurant-bar in such close juxtaposition to a playground, they’d have specifically banned it.. The pavilion was built for children, was used by children, and should continue as a sheltered recreation facility – an adjunct to the new playground. The crowds in the playground indicate the need for more recreation space – a need especially intensified given the Parks Department’s recent destruction of the sandlot playground – a move, incidentally, done **without** required CB5 consultation. This would be a good opportunity for you to correct these affronts to CB5 and say NO to this application.

Turning to the 500-foot rule - where there are three or more licensed alcohol dispensaries within 500 feet, a new license can be granted only if it is in the public interest. Here there are not three, but 25 such establishments within 500 feet. And unlike the case of a large area like Central Park, with a need to feed thousands, Union Square Park is just 3-1/2 acres, with 18 eating establishments right on the square, and over 100 more within a block or two. Further, in addition to the Pavilion’s usurping playground space, the plan to put numerous restaurant tables in the North Plaza impinges on an area where members of the public now sit. The presence of paying customers who might object to demonstrations also endangers this space from continuing as the City’s free speech area – the activity which led to Union Square’s designation as a National Historic Landmark.

For the reasons stated above, I urge you to reject this application.

Carol Greitzer – 59 W. 12 St. NYC 1001 (212) 255-4979 [cjhg59@yahoo.com](mailto:cjhg59@yahoo.com)