

Talking Points for Pavilion Liquor License Application

1. Bar and Alcohol Service Right Next to a Children's Playground. This is **the** central talking point. Liquor licenses cannot be granted for any establishment located within 100 feet of a school. The situation here should be treated in exactly the same way. The playground is zero feet from the establishment and bar. Children will be playing there regularly in the afternoon and well into the evening when the weather is comfortable, and those will be the exact times the restaurant will be open and wanting to serve alcohol. It is not only a bad example to serve liquor where children play – it creates risks of accidents due to drunkenness or carelessness.
2. Open Restaurant Makes It Worse. The Pavilion restaurant will not be enclosed but will have open sides without windows or other substantial coverings. This makes the situation even worse, since there will be no separation between the children at play on the playground and the restaurant patrons who will hover unseparated above them.
3. Impact on Park. Union Square Park is a small park, with both very active and relatively quiet areas. The availability of alcohol in this setting is all too likely to spill out into the Park, disrupting quiet areas (**including the playgrounds**) and potentially fostering aggressiveness and conflicts in the more crowded areas.
4. Superfluity of Alcohol Outlets Around Union Square. There are already many establishments offering alcohol on the streets bordering Union Square Park, including restaurants, bars and retail sales outlets. There is no reason or need to license another drinking facility given this overabundance of existing ones.
5. Impingement on Free Assembly. The north plaza of Union Square Park has historically been the site of important and very large public demonstrations and protests. The Pavilion restaurant seating will spill out onto the Plaza, discouraging continuing assemblies and creating the potential for significant conflicts and erratic behavior when assemblies are held there. At the same time, assemblies diverted to the south plaza (which has been the recent trend) create major traffic blockages on 14th Street, which is a main cross-town thoroughfare, as well as impossible pedestrian congestion.
6. Parks are for People, not High-End Dining. Given all the places that people can dine and have drinks around Union Square Park, there is no reason to usurp park space (which, in this case, could and should be used for children's and family activities) for a high-end commercial operation offering alcohol.