

Molly's Cupcakes Naperville

30 W Jefferson Ave

Naperville, IL 60540

Mayor Steve Chirico

City of Naperville

400 S Eagle Street

Naperville, IL 60540

Attn: Jennifer Lutzke

September 13, 2021

RE: Request for Variance to the Class "S" Specialty Wine Shop

Molly's Cupcakes Naperville, 30 W Jefferson Ave. Naperville, IL 60540

Dear Mayor Chirico:

Molly's Cupcakes Naperville, a local downtown Naperville business, is seeking a Variance, pursuant to Section 3-3-6, of the Naperville Liquor Code. Our bakery is applying to serve specialty wine, by the glass, with the option to dip into a dessert rim (e.g. caramel, dark/milk chocolate, white chocolate). Our Naperville location has four high efficiency commercial Blodgett ovens operated by our local kitchen team – it produces scratch-made cupcakes, frostings, batters, cookies, pies, rice krispies, and other baked goods. We have a large hood exhaust fan, with gas oven used to make all our batters/frostings. Our front of house area has 6 swings, a 15-foot wooden table, multiple small tables and chairs for additional seating. At the request of many of our local customers, friends & family, who frequent our store – we are applying for a specialty wine license pursuant to Class "S" Specialty Wine Shop designation.

Per Section 3-3-6:

1.

Any liquor license applicant or current liquor license holder may submit an application requesting approval of a variance to the following sections of this Title: requirements of premises or additional liquor license restrictions.

Molly's Cupcakes Naperville is a current business operating in downtown Naperville since January 2019. It has not previously applied for a specialty wine license.

2.

Applications for said variances shall be made to the local Liquor and Tobacco Control Commissioner in writing, signed by the applicant, verified by oath or affidavit, and shall contain the statements and information and be in the form provided.

Liquor Concept Committee Application provided. Additional information shall be furnished as required.

3.

Upon filing a variance application, the petitioner shall pay a four hundred dollar (\$400.00) fee for processing the application.

The \$400 variance fee will be paid as directed.

4.

Upon determination that the variance application is complete, the Liquor Commission shall review said application and render a recommendation which shall be subject to final review by the City Council. Any recommendation by the Liquor Commission and any decision by the City Council shall be predicated on evidence and finding that:

4.1.

The variance is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Liquor Control Ordinance and the variance is not precedent setting; and

Our application appears to be within the guidelines, our neighbors – Starbucks Reserve, Le Chocolate du Brouhard are currently serving wine & also alcohol. Across the street, Devine Cellars has a specialty wine license with a limited menu of food.

4.2.

Strict enforcement of the Liquor Control Ordinances would result in practical difficulties due to special and/or unusual circumstances surrounding the property and circumstances substantially outside the petitioner's control; and

Due to the full service, back of house kitchen, we have difficulty meeting the square footage requirement for Class "S" Specialty Wine Shop of <1500 square feet. Excluding the kitchen area, our front of house service/seating area meets the requirement.

4.3.

The variance, if granted, will not alter the essential character of the liquor establishment or underlying liquor license requirements and will not be a substantial detriment to adjacent property.

We do not believe our application will alter the essential character of the liquor establishment of this, or adjacent properties.

5.

The variance, if granted, shall be subject to the transferability restrictions established in Section 3-3-5 of this Title. Upon suspension, revocation, or nonrenewal of a liquor license, said variance shall also become null and void.

Understood.

Conclusion:

It is reasonable to grant this Variance because the essential character of our business, and surrounding businesses will not change. Molly's Cupcakes Naperville has an extensive, full-service kitchen, that provides hearty baked goods that can be enjoyed by our patrons. The Class "S" specialty wine license is in line with neighboring establishments and will keep our beverage offerings competitive without overburdening any nearby businesses. Further, the owner/operators of this business – Stephanie Jacobson (husband, James Jacobson), are local Naperville residents who will ensure that employees/management will comply with all necessary guidelines.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Jacobson

Owner/Operator

Molly's Cupcakes Naperville & Woodfield Mall