

5/21/08

Santa Barbara Police Department  
Police & Fire Commission  
215 East Figueroa Street  
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93101

RE: MADISON'S, 525 STATE STREET DANCE PERMIT APPLICATION

Dear Police & Fire Commissioners:

I, Susie Thompson am addressing you in regards to the Dance Permit Madison's is requesting. Due to work I am not able to attend the meeting.

When run as a dance club, this location has been a long time problem for both residents and the Hotel Santa Barbara. The music is excessively loud. When Madison's is run as a restaurant, there is not the same noise problem. The dancing encourages patrons to stay longer and music is always louder at the clubs with dance permits than the ones that do not have dancing.

After Madison's restaurant is closed and the setting is a dance club, the patron capacity enlarges, due to clearing of tables and chairs. This creates a larger problem for the police to manage. It appears the police force is being reduced for nightlife enforcement due to budget cuts as I was told on Saturday night, May 10. I called the Police Department to request a police officer to write a report to give to the ABC in regards to Brick's having a band with amplified music. I was told there was not a Nightlife Enforcement Team on duty for the weekend due to budget cuts and that staff was being placed elsewhere in the City.

If the small police force we have for the area is being reduce and the two ABC investigators (for both Ventura and Santa Barbara counties) are so limited they cannot be out to oversee this extreme concentration of ABC licenses, this does not seem to be a time for dance permits to be issued.

Madison's has a history of crime problems, which recently includes about a fight a month. The ABC has violations on their license, including a Suspension of their ABC license for 10 days for sales to a minor. (see attachment) It takes several offenses for a Suspension of an ABC license.

With Madison's crime stats and ABC disciplinary history issuing a dance permit to them seems a bit reckless.

I respectfully request this dance permit be denied.

Susie Thompson  
511-1/2 Fig Ave.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101