

October 11, 2016

City of Saratoga Springs Zoning Board of Appeals
City Hall
474 Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



Dear Members of the Board:

The purpose of this letter today is to offer my support for Matt Sames and his partners on their proposed plans for 20 Bowman Street in the City of Saratoga Springs. My name is A.J. Bodden and I reside in the Southside Neighborhood which is approximately .5 mile from 20 Bowman. I am in support of Mr. Sames' plans for several reasons but primarily because I am in favor of seeing dilapidated and vacant properties being renovated and repurposed for a meaningful use, whether it be residential or commercial. As you're well aware, the property in question has been an eyesore for years and, despite much effort to do so, has not attracted any suitors willing to invest the time, energy and resources necessary to redevelop it. I applaud Mr. Sames and his partners for their willingness to take this on and, as a result, help to continue to improve our neighborhood.

Another major reason for my support of this project is because I think the City will benefit from having a business like this in our neighborhood, especially one that will not specialize in loud music, large crowds and inexpensive drinks. Both as a neighbor and resident of the City in general, I am enthusiastic about having another dining option in town and in particular one on the south east side of town within walking distance to many residences. My intention is not to use this as an opportunity to defame our current options however I do feel that an addition to the options would be welcomed by many in the community. With this in mind, I would like to point out that there are a relatively significant number of restaurants in the vicinity of 20 Bowman therefore suggesting that this use would be perfectly appropriate for the parcel and not an issue to approve. However I would imagine that there is opposition from the residents in the immediate vicinity based on their experience with certain current businesses in operation which is both reasonable and understandable however I would make the argument that what we are dealing with here is an apple to that orange, something completely different. What Mr. Sames is proposing is a bistro featuring small plates, fine wines, craft beers and cocktails with limited capacity; a far cry from the other businesses in the area that can be categorized as invasive.

In closing I would like to encourage the Board to see all sides of the issue presented and make the decision that is best for our City and its economy. There is no question that thousands of people visit our City annually and that the majority of those visit for the purposes of attending the track. There is question however on truly how many of those remain in town after their day the track and continue to support our local economy. The addition of Mr. Sames' restaurant will give those people another, and arguably more enjoyable, reason to stick around and spend a few dollars in the City of Saratoga Springs.

I appreciate your consideration and hope that you will support this project.

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Bodden
Daggs Lane
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866